

1. The experience of Abraham

- a) Romans 4:1–5
- b) What important lesson do you learn from these verses?
- c) What experiences from the life of Abraham reinforce the truth that he believed God and it was credited to him for righteousness?
 - i) Genesis 12:1–4
 - ii) Genesis 15:1–6
 - iii) Genesis 22:1–8 (see Hebrews 11:17–19)

2. Debt or grace

- a) Romans 4:6–8
- b) Paul quotes here from Psalm 32. How had the psalmist David experienced the grace of God? (1 Samuel 11; Psalm 51:1–12)
- c) Romans 4:9–12, what other texts reinforce this precious truth? (e.g. John 3:16, Romans 10:13)

3. God’s promise to Abraham

- a) Romans 4:13–17
- b) Galatians 3:7–9
- c) There are many examples of faith in the Hebrew Scriptures. Why do you think Paul focuses on Abraham? Why not Joseph or Daniel?

4. The purpose of the law

- a) If we are saved by God’s grace through faith, what then is the purpose of the law? Galatians 3:21–25

- b) According to Paul, once we have come to Christ and accepted His salvation by faith, we no longer need the law as a schoolmaster. Does the law of God still have any value for Christians?
 - i) Romans 7:12
 - ii) Romans 3:31
 - iii) Psalm 119:18
- c) Why is obedience to God’s commandments still important for those who are saved by grace through faith?
 - i) John 14:15
 - ii) 1 John 1:5–7
 - iii) 1 John 2:3–6
- d) How does our relationship to the law change once we realize that salvation is by faith alone, a gift of grace from our loving and merciful God?

5. Discussion questions

- a) Why do you think Paul was so passionate about the message of salvation by God’s grace through faith?
- b) When did you come to believe the amazing promise of God that He would save you by His grace?
- c) How should we relate to those who consistently resist the invitation to accept God’s grace?

