

.....now to Abraham and to his seed were the promises made. He saith not and to thy seed as of many but as of one and to thy seed, which is Christ'. ^{Gal. 3:16} And then in V. 6 of Gen. 15, it says (read) he believed in the Lord'. He believed the promise of the Lord concerning the seed. What was the seed? That from you shall come the Messiah. There shall be born from you the Messiah. He believed in the seed. He believed in the Messiah to come. It's a personal faith in Christ! 'And it was counted unto him for righteousness'. Now just keep this in mind. This is in Gen. 15: 6.

Rom. 4: V.4 (read) 'debt (or of obligation). You see, if one works and earns salvation, then he is paid. He's just paid off. If we are saved by works, then we place God under obligation to us and God has to pay us in the wages of salvation. Just like a man works so much, you pay him so much pay. He earns it. IF salvation were on the same basis, man would place God under obligation to himself. This is what corrupted the faith of the Medieval Church. They were taught the doctrine of merit. When Luther came on the scene, this had literally corrupted man! It had corrupted religion!

m - Medieval merit

They had actually taught the people they could accumulate so many good works until they had more good works than they even needed to get in to Heaven and that those good works could be transferred to other people. That you could pray to the saints, who had more works than they needed and you could get some of those works transferred to your account! You see if Xtnity is on this basis and salvation is on this basis, you have humanism at its worst and human pride being exalted and human effort and all that man can do. You say 'well, do you have this in the world?' You have it everywhere; it's all over Ft. Smith.

Have you ever asked a person 'are you saved?' and he immediately begins to say 'oh, listen, I joined the Baptist Church twenty five years ago. Oh, I'm a Baptist'. Or 'I was baptized. I was a deacon; I was a S.S. teacher'. That always disturbs me. Is that what you would ask? I don't believe you would. If someone asked you if you're saved, are you gonna say 'oh, I was

baptized. I'm a member of the FBC. I give my tithe, I support all these wonderful things'. What you're saying is 'Oh, I place God under obligation. YOU know I'm saved'. Reminds me of the story of the witness who came to this church and the lady came to the door and this witness says 'does God live here?' and the lady said 'why, I'm a member of the FBC and I'm very active there'. The witness said 'well, I didn't ask you that. Does God live here?' And she said 'well, mister, I'm president of the WMU of our church! Listen, I go every Sunday to the FBC!! And my husband is a deacon in the church'. He said 'well, that's not what I ASKED. I ask you 'does God live here?'

SM- Does God live here?

She got so frustrated that she ran out of the house and back to where her husband was and told the husband of the conversation. The husband said 'well, didn't you tell that man I'm a deacon in the FBC and you're president of the WMU and we've been baptized and...'. She said 'well, that's exactly what I told him, but he said that was not the answer'. Then the man began to think and he said 'well, DOES God live here really?' and they concluded He didn't and they got under conviction and fell right on the ground, in the backyard, so I read, and received the Lord as their Savior.

Prov. 14: 26 + 16: 26

You see, there is a way that seemeth right unto man (Prov. 14: 12; Prov. 16: 26) and here it is, right here. It is if you work. You know if you've been brought up in a good home, been brought up to pay your debts, been brought up to be honest, been brought up to go to S.S. on Sunday, it's very, very hard not to believe that this will save you and here's the problem. So often, someone was brought up to be moral, to pay their debts, to be religious, to be respectable and often they just come right into the church without any repentance and without any trusting Jes., and they're lost. They're lost and that's the reason God will send along a

Bailey Smith sometimes, just to show lost church members that they are lost!

Bailey Smith - only lost ch. mbrs get upset when you tell lost ch. mbrs they need to get saved

You know what he said on the first night he spoke? Said the only people that I've ever known that gets upset about lost church members getting saved are lost church members. You know, we had that when he was here? We had some people that got upset! Couple of pastors got upset

in this city. But you see, if you know what the Bible says and you realize that some of the best people in the world have never trusted Christ and they are just as lost as if they'd never been in a church or never been baptized. You see, it's hard for us to believe this when we're decent, that we cannot, by our goodness, 'well, certainly, Gods not gonna send a moral person to hell. An honest person. A working person. A person who comes to church and S.S. and one who gives his money. He's not gonna send that person to hell'. OH YES, HE IS, My Friend'. Unless they have trusted Christ!

We do not put God under obligation to us, in any way, no matter how good we are - without JC, we are lost! Now look at

V. 5 (read) here's my topic for today. God says certain people should quit work immediately! All work, immediately! That's V. 5 - 'to him that worketh not'. Isn't this verse amazing? Is there anybody here that's working for righteousness? Is there one of us in here who really is depending upon your goodness, your religion, your church membership, your giving, your helping of the poor, your being a good provider, you being an honest man - is there one person here that is doing one work to be saved? If so, God says 'quit it and quit it NOW'. Why? Because as long as we work to be saved, we will never be saved.

And this is the most difficult thing to get people to understand. The most difficult person in the world to reach in your church is a person who has been good and is working and active but unsaved, because he just says 'well, listen, the pastor said that and I know Paul says that and really, I'm not gonna argue with them, but it just can't be so. My goodness, I'm too good a person. I've been around here too long; I've given too much; I've been too honest. Oh God certainly is gonna give me credit for that'. But not one bit of credit will we get! That's the reason the Book of Romans ought to be studied over and over again by the family of God. God says there are certain people who ought to quit all works and quit them NOW!

Are you here; is there somebody that's working to be saved? If so, quite it and repent of it

because it's wickedness of the highest nature! Not only will it not save you, but Scrip. says it's wickedness of the highest nature because it is denying the plan of God. It is usurping the right of God to save us by Grace. It's a wicked thing to WORK to be saved! In the 7th chapter of Matt. V. 21, 22 & 23 (read) this great host of people appearing before Jes., were citing their good works and He looks at them and says 'I never knew you!! No personal relationship whatsoever with you. Depart from me, ye who work iniquity'. And they had been preaching and prophesying in His name and casting out devils and doing many wonderful things, but He said 'you work iniquity'.

SM - Matt. 7:21-24

SM - Luther - Most pernicious teaching on earth.

It's utter wickedness to work to be saved! Not only are we not saved but God condemns it as utter wickedness. But notice what he says in V. 5 - 'but to him that worketh not, but who believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly'. Does God justify the ungodly? That's the ONLY person He does justify! Are you justified? Well, you were justified when you were ungodly. Every one of us! We are all ungodly out of Christ and our works are ungodly and our nature is ungodly. Paul says in Rom. 8: 7 (read) 'carnal mind (that's the mind of the flesh) is enmity against God'.

Rom. 8:17

Is in warfare against God and is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. If our will has not been broken and we have not repented and we have not trusted Christ, we, indeed, are ungodly and the only people that the Lord can justify, are the ungodly. Those who recognize ~~XXXXXX~~ they are ungodly and need God. Now the law says something entirely different. Ex. 23: 7 (read) the O. T. says 'I'm gonna judge'. God says 'I'm gonna judge. I will, by no means, clear the wicked or the ungodly.' But you see, that's the law. That's what Jes, is doing, or what He wants to do - is to justify the ungodly.

The ungodly - those whose lives are ungodly and they KNOW they are ungodly and they need God. That's the people that God's saving! So hard for people to understand this because this has not been taught with clarity to the Evangelical church. We teach salvation by Grace through Faith, without works in SBC but throughout this denomination there is a deep belief that works

is a part of it! It's such a subtle thing, until people will say 'well, you know I'm not ready to be saved. I'm in this sin and I'm in that sin and I've got to straighten this out, I've got to get this right before I can be saved'. What you need to do is to cast yourself upon Jes. in ungodliness and say 'Lord, LORD, Lord, forgive me' right on the spot and come just as you are. It's in the hymns 'Just as I am without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me; Oh, Lamb of God, I come'. We don't come with a plea, we just come just as we are.

Was Abraham ungodly? He certainly was ungodly. He was trying to save himself. Worshipped the Moon goddess. His nature was ungodly. He showed he was ungodly when he went down into Egypt but God declared him righteous because he believed in the Seed. Let's go on. Not only Abraham, but also David.

V. 6 (read) 'imputeth (or credits) righteousness without works'. Notice? Without works! Well David was under the Law, wasn't he? Why, of course. Did David offer sacrifices? Of course he did. But David knew that no sacrifice would save him. Had you asked Abel; had you asked David 'why do you bring the sacrifice?' they certainly would not have said 'because the blood of these animals does away with our sin'. They would have said 'we have been taught that these sacrifices point to One who's coming, Who indeed will take away our sin'.

Heb. 10:4

David knew it so clearly until Ps. 51 - in this ~~great~~ great repentance - let's turn to it - Ps. 51 - look what he says in V. 16 and 17 (read) 'thou desirest not the sacrifice (that's the bloody sacrifice) ~~xxx~~ else would I give it'. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart; Oh God, Thou wilt not despise'. Those are the only sacrifices that you and I can bring to God. David brought this to God but his faith was in the Seed to come, in the One who would come to take away his sins. Not in the animals and certainly not in the Law he could do!

*David is new animal sac. not acceptable -
Psa. 51:16-17*

You say, 'but it's by faith; isn't that a work?' It certainly is NOT a work! It is not a work

Faith not a work

all according to Eph. 2: 8 & 9 (read) 'it IS the gift of God' and the antecedent of 'it' is both salvation AND faith! You say 'but you must repent'. Indeed you must repent but repentance is not even a human work (Acts 11: 18 calls it the Gift of God). Now don't make the old Calvinistic hard-shell Baptist error here: God does not place us without responsibility of hearing the Word. He says 'hear the Word'. Hear the Word! Anybody in the world that will hear the Word of God with an open heart, with the desire to hear the voice of God and to know the way, listen, faith will be produced in his heart!

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Ramah of ^{Christ} God! When the Word is preached, God will speak to our souls, if we're open and we will have faith but that faith is produced by the Word of God and the H. S. working in our hearts which is the gift of God and repentance will be produced in the life. You can't just SAY 'I'm gonna repent and I'm gonna have faith'. It's through the instruments of God in our lives. We cannot even take credit for faith and repentance! We have a group of people today out of Dallas Seminary and other places who are telling us repentance is not necessary for salvation because repentance is a work.

It is not a work, it is wrought in the soul by the Word of God and by the H. S. working and faith is wrought the same way! It's the same way and so we can't even take credit for those things at all. So David says 'blessed are those whose iniquities (that's the word 'guilt') are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute (or count) sin'. Here's David forgiven, in a state of Grace, but it was because of his faith in the Lord; not anything that he did. Now he's called 'a man after Gods own heart' and Abraham is called 'a friend of God'. Why? Because they were good?

Ab & David - friends of God. Rec. of their faith. Rom. 14: 23 b.
Why is David called a man after Gods own heart? Because he trusted God. Why is Abraham called a friend of God? Jam. 2: 23 says (read). If I want to be a friend of God, I must be a person of faith. I must trust Jes., if I want to be a friend of God. That's what makes us a friend of God; that's what makes us a person after Gods own heart. God is looking for people who will trust Him, in salvation and in their Xtn life. That's what He wants. He wants us who will

Isa. 41: 8 - Ab is friend of God

trust Him and not ourselves. And all the believers today who are unbelievers in their living! One of the thrilling things of where we are today is that many, many people are trusting God with their money. It's so blessed - the electricity of the H. S. filled this place this morning. There's nothing in the world that God honors when a person cannot give his money, it's because he's not trusting God. It's a matter of trust; of trust in God, not in ourselves or what we can do, but trusting God! That glorifies God and makes us His friends and makes us people after His own heart! He wants to be trusted!

All right. Now he gets into the matter of circumcision, in V.9. I can imagine the Jews saying at this point 'Oh, Paul, wait a minute here, you say that Abraham and David were justified without works? Don't you know that circumcision is the greatest work in the world? Don't you realize that Abraham was circumcised when he was ninety nine years old? If you want a lesson in faith, study this. Here's a ninety nine year old man and God said 'be circumcised' and I don't care - listen - if God tells us to do something, we're to do it. Ninety Nine years old and he could have produced a hundred good reasons not to do it. But God said 'be circumcised' at ninety nine and Abraham did and that's the reason he's a friend of God, is because he did what God said.

But look the Jews are saying he did this and certainly he's gonna get credit. Listen: does this blessing come then upon the circumcision only? That would be the Jews. Or upon these uncircumcision also? That is the blessing of righteousness? Latter part of V. 9 (read) 'for we say (or have been saying) that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness'.

V. 10 (read) 'how was it then reckoned (or under what circumstances was it then credited) when he was in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ circumcision?' Now Paul is asking a question 'all right, not WHEN was he counted righteous? Was it before circumcision or after circumcision?' And Paul answers: 'not IN circumcision but in UNCIRCUMCISION'. You know when ^{Abraham} ~~XXXX~~ was circumcised? Fourteen years after he believed! Gen. 15 tells us of his belief: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Gen. 17 tells us of his circumcision. All Bible scholars are agreed that that was fourteen years later in his

*Ab. cir. 14 yrs. after he bel. (Gen. 15)
(Gen. 17-18)*

life. Which shows that the human work of circumcision had nothing to do with his justification. None whatsoever! NONE! Paul has demolished this argument completely from the example of Abraham and from historical records. Now he WAS circumcised. Why? Look at

V. 11 (read) all right, why was he circumcised? If circumcision had nothing to do with his being justified, or declared righteous, why was he? The same reason you and I should be baptized. The circumcision was but the outward seal of the inward relationship he had and the faith which was in his heart. What is baptism? It is but the outward seal of the inward Grace of God in our hearts and can never be administered until we have received Christ. The circumcision of Abraham was the outward evidence of his inward justification. Notice he calls it 'a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had, yet being uncircumcised'.

Why circumcised if after he bel. ? to profess his faith outwardly even as we do in baptism
Now why, overall, did God permit this? He tells us at the latter part of V. 11 (read) 'that (or in order) Abraham might be the father (the Spiritual Father) of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised'. Abraham, of course, could have not been the Spiritual father of all that believe, if it required one to be circumcised. You and I certainly would be left out. But God intended him to be the Spiritual Father and a type for every one of us, justification by faith without ANY works; so he let him be justified before he was ever circumcised that righteousness might be imputed unto them also'.

V. 12 (read) 'being yet uncircumcised (or before he was circumcised). He is plainly saying that Abraham was circumcised - I mean was justified - without being circumcised, showing the way for ALL men, not by any works whatsoever, but by faith and faith alone, in JC! Now who was Abraham? Was Abraham a Jew? Well, not really. Now we just seem to think he was a Jew. But not really. If you really classify Abraham, he was really a Gentile. You say 'well, that's amazing to me'. Well, he really was. He came from the Ur of the Chaldeans; he's not a Shumite at all. He was a Gentile.

You say 'well, where does the Jews begin?' Well, later! You don't find any Jews in 2000 B.C.

No, Abraham was a Gentile. All Bible scholars are agreed that this is so. And how was he justified? By faith. So, rather than Jews telling us that we must come to Jewish circumcision, we could say to the Jews 'you must come to Gentile faith'. Abraham is a Gentile and Abraham set the example and it is by faith. All right, you say 'but really he was under the Law!! Abraham was under the Law. Certainly that must have had something to do with his justification or with his being declared righteous'. Look at

1. Jews can't say (1) you must come to Jewish circumcision.
2. Gentiles can say (2) Jews must come to Gent. faith.

V. 13 (read) when did Abraham receive the Promise that he was going to be the forerunner of the Messiah and that through him would come the Seed? When did he receive it? In Gen. 17 and in Gen. 18. What year was this? Scholars are agreed and it is stated, I think, in numerics in the Book of Acts: 430 years before the Law. He did not receive the Promise under the Law; it was a Promise of Faith and he believed it! He believed it! And, therefore, we are certainly safe in saying that the people before the cross of Christ were justified ~~XX~~ exactly like you and I are. The only difference was that they were looking FORWARD to Jes. where we look BACKWARD.

430 yrs. before Law given - Ab. rec'd promise (Gal 3:18)

They did not have the witness of the apostles that I talked about this morning and Jes. had not come in the flesh but they were looking to Him and Abraham believed in that Promise that He was coming and he did not, in any way, count on circumcision or Law or anything that he could do. Neither did David. How about you? Isn't it foolish that after two thousand years of Xtn History and we have the O. T. and the N. T. - yet most of the people in our world tonight are depending upon their works to get them to Heaven? Do you realize that a national survey has shown that 80% of people who profess to know Christ in America, are depending on their works!

80% of professors N. on Law (works) to save them.

If you don't believe it, go to the restaurant and just ask the first question in Evangelism and see what people will tell you. You say 'well, not Baptists folks'. Yes, there are millions of Baptists who believe because they were immersed and because they're fairly decent and religious that they are going to Heaven. There are millions of them - of Baptists, as much as we stress salvation by Grace, through faith. You can imagine what it is in denominations which

have taught the heresy of salvation by works and by religious principles and ceremonies! You can imagine how very, very serious this is.

Now, tonight we, as Xtns, suppose you have received Christ by faith. How important is this message for you and me? It is to remind us that we are saved by Grace; that we are not saved by our selves or our goodness and we're to remind ourselves every day we live that we're a trophy of the Grace of God and except for the Grace of God, we would be lost and we don't deserve a thing and this gives us the right attitude toward those who are lost and the right attitude toward ourselves and our brothers and sisters that we are trophies of Gods marvelous Grace! That's all we can say! Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch (that's been taken out of the humnals in some denominations)!

The song that calls us a 'worm' that's been taken out. You see the tragedy? You see the tragedy of modern man and Americans are so proud, my friends, and we can get so proud, even of our denomination and what we have and forget that it's ALL of the Grace of God and costs God everything and we would be in hell, if it were not for His Grace! So we need to hear it, as Ctns, we need to hear it all the time and we need to sing it and we need to believe!

How about if we're not Xtns? How about if we're depending upon some work or something we are or something we're doing? We need to hear it and I mean we need to hear it! And we need to quit IMMEDIATELY; we need to confess it as sin and come to the Lord and say "Lord I know I'm lost, I know I'm lost. I'm not going to pretend anything else; I'm lost! Please save me!" And He will do that. He will do that. So I close with the subject of today: God says certain people ought to quit all work immediately! Is there ~~somebody~~ somebody here that's trying to be saved by works? If so, quit. Not part of them, but quit ALL work immediately; IMMEDIATELY! And cast yourself upon the mercy of our Lord, Jesus.

Let's stand.