

Sermon notes: February 27, 2022

Remember When There Were E Ticket Rides?

Passage: **Romans 4**

⁴ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed are those
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”^[b]

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”^[c] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”^[d] ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that

Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Paul Made His Point Using A Big Gun

Romans 3:31 ³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Romans 3:21 ²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

John 8:32 ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Paul Contrasted Two Ways Of Approaching God

One Way Was The Wage System

The Other Way Was The Credit System

Genesis 15:6 ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:5 ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring^[a] be."

Galatians 3:17 ¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.

There Are Reasons Why God Chose The Credit System

Matthew 5:22 ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^{[a][b]} will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,'^[c] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Conclusion

Greater

Verse 1

Bring your tired and bring your shame, Bring your guilt and bring your pain
Don't you know that's not your name, You will always be much more to me

Pre-Chorus

Every day I wrestle with the voices
That keep telling me I'm not right, But that's alright

Chorus

'Cause I hear a voice and He calls me redeemed
When others say I'll never be enough
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world
In the world in the world
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world

Verse 2

Bring your doubts and bring your fears, Bring your hurt and bring your tears
There'll be no condemnation here, You are holy righteous and redeemed

Pre-Chorus

Every time I fall, There'll be those who will call me a mistake
Well that's ok

Interlude

Woah oh oh, Woah oh
(He's greater He's greater)

Bridge

There'll be days I lose the battle, Grace says that it doesn't matter
'Cause the cross already won the war, (He's greater He's greater)
I am learning to run freely
Understanding just how He sees me, And it makes me love Him more and more
(He's greater He's greater)
(REPEAT)

Ending

Than he who is living in the world

Trust In You

Verse 1

Letting go of every single dream
I lay each one down at Your feet
Every moment of my wondering
Never changes what You see

Verse 2

I've tried to win this war I confess
My hands are weary I need Your rest
Mighty warrior King of the fight
No matter what I face You're by my side

Chorus

When You don't move the mountains
I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers
As I cry out to You
I will trust I will trust
I will trust in You

Verse 3

Truth is You know what tomorrow brings
There's not a day ahead You have not seen
So in all things be my life and breath
I want what You want Lord and nothing less

Bridge

You are my strength and comfort
You are my steady hand
You are my firm foundation
The Rock on which I stand
Your ways are always higher
Your plans are always good
There's not a place where I'll go
You've not already stood

Walk By Faith

Verse 1

Will I believe You when You say
Your hand will guide my ev'ry way
Will I receive the words You say
Ev'ry moment of ev'ry day

Chorus

Well I will walk by faith
Well even when I cannot see
Because this broken road
Prepares Your will for me

Verse 2

Help me to rid my endless fears
You've been so faithful for all my years
With one breath You made me new
Your grace covers all I do
Yeah yeah yeah
Yeah yeah yeah

Bridge

Well I'm broken
But I still see Your face
Well You've spoken
Pouring Your words of grace

Ending

Well hallelujah hallelu
Well hallelujah hallelu

Desert Song

Verse 1

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

Verse 2

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 3

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

Bridge

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship
(REPEAT)

Verse 4

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow