

Study of Romans 4
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Romans 4:1-25

With the very last *verse* of *Romans 3* we established that the Law, the Torah, the TRUTH, was still in full force and that it **WAS** to be obeyed in its entirety, at the time that Paul wrote his letter to the Romans and today. *Verse 3:31 DO WE THEN MAKE VOID THE TORAH (LAW) THROUGH FAITH? ELOHIM FORBID: YEA, WE ESTABLISH THE TORAH (Law)*. And since the Scriptures tell us that YHVH **DOES NOT CHANGE**, **THEN** that means that Paul's message **IS ALSO FOR US TODAY**.

Now **YOU HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE**, do I identify with Paul and his teaching here in Romans and throughout the Apostolic Scriptures, **OR** do I cling to the teaching of the church father's that **CLAIM** that the Torah **IS PARTIALLY OR TOTALLY DONE AWAY WITH**. **IF** you do indeed identify with Paul and his teaching, then you have to understand that although Abraham **IS NOT YOUR FATHER** as pertaining to our flesh; **BUT** that Abraham **IS** the father of all who **BELIEVE** (*have faith*) and when we willingly and lovingly choose to believe, (*have faith in*) our heavenly Father and choose to walk in His ways, that belief (*faith*), **WILL** be counted to us **AS RIGHTEOUSNESS** and therefore that **IS** why Abraham **IS** considered to be our father for he was the first Hebrew, the first to cross over from his worldly ways to **BELIEVE** and **OBEY** YHVH and **ALL** of His Words, **ALL** of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **ALL** of His Torah of Life..

OK, so now we have established that the Torah **IS STILL IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT TODAY** and that according to Scripture Abraham **IS** our father, which makes us his sons, in and through **BELIEF** (*faith*). Next Paul poses us a question *Verse 11 What shall we say then, that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, has found?*

Then Paul answers that question, and he does it in his normal way, with a lot of explanation to ensure that we get the point.

Verses 2 For IF Abraham were JUSTIFIED BY WORKS, he has something to glory in; but NOT before Elohim. 3 For what does the Scripture say? It says Abraham BELIEVED Elohim, and that BELIEF was counted unto him for RIGHTEOUSNESS. 4 Now, him THAT WORKS, the reward that he receives IS NOT reckoned of Grace, BUT OF DEBT. 5 BUT, to him that does NOT work, BUT BELIEVES on Him that justifies the ungodly, HIS BELIEF (faith) IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

So here we can see that Paul tells all people that are listening to and or reading his letter, that when we, by belief (have faith) in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, then that belief **IS** counted to us as **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Paul then continues with a few more examples of YHVH's righteousness being imputed on those that believe (those that have faith). *Verses 6 Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man, unto whom Elohim imputes RIGHTEOUSNESS WITHOUT WORKS, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom YHVH WILL NOT IMPUTE SIN.*

Now we come to *verses* that some teachers use as proof text that according to them, some, ***IF NOT ALL OF THE TORAH HAS BEEN DONE AWAY WITH***. Here in *verse 9* Paul shows us that righteousness was imputed onto Abraham while he was yet ***uncircumcised*** and therefore many teach that the Commandment of YHVH, the Commandment to circumcise has ***somehow been done away with***, and they therefore reason that ***IF*** this one Commandment has been done away with, then this, to them, ***IS*** the precedent by which they believe and teach that many others, ***IF NOT ALL*** of what they call the *ceremonial laws* or the so called *Levitical Laws* have been done away with. *Verses 9 Does this blessedness (Torah) then come upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? For we say that belief (faith) was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How was it then reckoned? When he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.*

What Paul is teaching here ***IS*** a very simple message, and that ***IS*** that the works of the Torah (Law), or mechanical obedience to the Torah (Law), or legalism, ***IS NOT WHAT BRINGS SALVATION***, for ***SALVATION IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN A GIFT*** received ***BY BELIEF (faith)***, and when our belief ***IS*** manifested to our heavenly Father, He ***IS*** faithful ***to fill us with His Holy Spirit***, who in turn ***IS TASKED, OR COMMANDED BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER TO CAUSE*** every surrendered obedient heart to walk out ***ALL*** of YHVH's teaching and instruction, to walk out all of His Life giving Torah, His Law, and not just the Laws, or sections of Torah that we pick and choose to do, ***BUT ALL OF THEM***. *Ezekiel 36:27; in other words OUR BELIEF, OUR FAITH IN ELOHIM AND ALL OF HIS WAYS IS NOT ESTABLISHED BY OUR WORKS, BUT OUR WORKS ARE DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED BY OUR BELIEF OR UNBELIEF IN YHVH*

Next we see ***HOW*** Paul views the Covenant of Circumcision. Paul says *verse 11 and he received THE SIGN of circumcision, A SEAL OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE BELIEF (faith), which he had yet being uncircumcised: that HE MIGHT BE THE FATHER OF ALL THEM THAT BELIEVE, though they be NOT circumcised; THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS MIGHT BE IMPUTED UNTO THEM ALSO: 12 And THE FATHER OF CIRCUMCISION to them who are NOT of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that BELIEF (faith) of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.*

This ***IS*** a very important statement, for Paul ***IS*** telling us that circumcision, ***IS*** a Torah Commandment ***ESTABLISHED BY YHVH*** with Abraham, the father of our belief (our faith), therefore Paul says, ***CIRCUMCISION IS the SEAL OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE BELIEF of ABRAM***, which means that ***RIGHTEOUSNESS*** will only be imputed to a person when he chooses to ***BELIEVE YHVH***, (by faith, in YHVH).

Now what ***IS RIGHTEOUSNESS*** according to the Scripture? *Deuteronomy 4:5-8 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as YHVH my Elohim Comanded me, that you should do so in the land whither you go to possess it. 6 Keep therefore and DO them; FOR THIS IS YOUR WISDOM and YOUR UNDERSTANDING in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these STATUTES, and say, Surely this great nation is a WISE and UNDERSTANDING people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who have Elohim so nigh unto them, as YHVH our Elohim is in all things that we call upon Him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that HAS STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS so RIGHTEOUS as ALL THIS TORAH (Law), which I set before you this day?*

Deuteronomy 6:25 And IT SHALL BE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF WE observe TO DO ALL these Commandments before YHVH our Elohim, as He has Comanded us.

From these verses we can **ONLY** conclude that **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS that is imputed to those that BELIEVE (have faith) IS the Torah of YHVH**, for the Torah **IS** YHVH's character, His Holiness, His Heart, the essence of who He **IS**, and His righteousness **IS** embedded in His Life giving Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions to His children.

What does that mean? It means that once we believe in YHVH, as Abram did, then YHVH fills us with His Holy Spirit and we begin to find ourselves compelled by our love for our heavenly Father, to be obedient to **ALL** of His Commandments and come into Covenant with Him, including the Commandment to be circumcised, which in essence **TESTIFIES** of our **BELIEF** (our faith) in Elohim, in the same manner that it **TESTIFIED** of our father Abraham's **BELIEF** (faith) in YHVH, when he was circumcised.

YHVH's foreknowledge of the belief (faith) that Abram displayed **IS** why Abram was awarded the privilege of being chosen by YHVH Himself, as the *Father of BELIEF (the father of Faith)*, Abraham, which **IS** the name by which he is now known by, in both the Hebraic and Apostolic Scriptures. Obedience to YHVH's Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions my friends, **IS NOT BONDAGE** as many people have been taught to believe and as the church fathers insist upon and continue to falsely teach. We have to understand that **OBEDIENCE TO** YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, called **THE LAW OF LIBERTY** by James, **IS, ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, LIFE TO ALL WHO CHOOSE TO WILLINGLY OBEY IT**, and it brings on YHVH's Blessings. *Leviticus 26:1-13 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14*. However **IF** you **CHOOSE TO GO THE WAY OF MAN MADE DOCTRINES** and or man's theology there are also many verse that tell us what **IS IN STORE FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE THAT PATH**, *Leviticus 26: 14-49 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68*

Verse 13 Here again Paul makes the argument that **IT IS NOT** by the Law, or by legalism, by legalistically keeping the Torah of YHVH by his own strength that Abram was to become heir to YHVH's promises, and the father of all peoples that believe, **IT WAS BY BELIEF**, by faithfully believing, obeying, following and **DOING** YHVH's Torah, *Genesis 26:4-5 And I will make your seed Isaac to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto your seed all these countries; and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 BECAUSE Abraham your father, OBEYED My voice, and KEPT My charge, My Commandments, My Statutes, and My Torah (Laws).*

Abram was called by YHVH in *Genesis 12:1-4* at the age of seventy five, and he obeyed the call. Before Abram's belief (faith) was counted unto him as righteousness however Abram walked with YHVH for at least ten to fifteen years in obedience to YHVH's Word, and we come to that number of years when we read that Abram's and Lot's wealth had increased so much that they had to separate and Lot moved in the plain of Jordan and set up camp near Sodom. Then Lot, his family and all his belongings were taken captive and Abram, together with his three hundred men servant went to rescue Lot and all the others that had been captured and brought them and their belongings back home where he met with the King of Salem, Melchizedek, who blessed him *Genesis 14:18-20*. Then in *Genesis 15:1-6, the Scripture says, After these things the Word of YHVH came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am your shield, and your exceeding great reward*. The time period from the time that YHVH spoke to Abram when he was seventy five years old to the time that YHVH spoke to Abram in *Genesis 15* is as I said, approximately ten to fifteen years, for it took a fair amount of years for Abram to build up this great wealth, and be able to support all of his servants which we are told were three hundred men, plus who knows how many wives and children, as part

of his camp. At that point **IS** when we are told in *Genesis 15:6 Abram believed YHVH; and YHVH counted **ABRAM'S BELIEF** as **RIGHTEOUSNESS***. What do we learn from this? This tells us that YHVH counted Abram's belief in Elohim, his faith, his obedience to Elohim's Word **AS *RIGHTEOUSNESS, ONLY AFTER*** Abram had been walking in obedience to YHVH's Commandments for ten to fifteen years.

Next we see that Abraham **IS** ninety nine years old and his name has been changed from Abram to Abraham, meaning *the father of many nations*, and YHVH visits him and tells him that He will fulfill the promise that He made to Him back when Abraham was 75 years old. After walking with YHVH for twenty four years, Abraham now believes YHVH completely when he is told that he and Sarah will have a son, even though it seems physically impossible for them to have a child because of their ages, Abraham believed YHVH and that belief, the faith that Abraham had at that time **IS** what was also counted onto him as righteousness.

When YHVH knew that Abraham's belief in Him, his faith was strong enough, YHVH made Abraham and Sarah a promise that a son would be born onto them within the year. At that point, after walking in obedience to YHVH for twenty five years, Abraham believed YHVH, and again that belief was counted unto him as righteousness. From that point on Abraham understood that whatever Commandment YHVH would give Him after that, would be **RIGHTEOUSNESS PERSONIFIED**, for **YHVH IS RIGHTEOUSNESS** and every Word that proceeds forth from His mouth **IS RIGHTEOUSNESS**. As you can see, **BELIEF** (faith) **IS A JOURNEY**; we don't all of a sudden start believing in the Living Word of the Father and magically have faith to move mountains. It wasn't for another twenty five plus years that Abraham's faith was tested to the extreme when YHVH asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar. By that time, fifty to fifty five years after being called by Elohim out of Ur of the Chaldees, Abraham's **BELIEF** (faith) **IS INDEED** strong enough to obey Elohim even to the extent of putting Isaac, his son on an altar for the express purpose of sacrificing him to YHVH, as YHVH had Commanded him. My friends we have to understand that as I said **BELIEF, OR FAITH, are one and the same, and it IS A JOURNEY** that we willingly undertake, and as we willingly learn to surrender more of our wills to our heavenly Father through obedience, **THAT BELIEF (FAITH) WILL** at a certain point in our lives **BE COUNTED UNTO US AS RIGHTEOUSNESS**, in the same manner that Abraham walked with YHVH and when YHVH **KNEW** that Abraham was ready, He gave Abraham a test, which Abraham passed with flying colours. Why did YHVH do this for Abraham? Let's read *Genesis 26:4-5. And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and WILL GIVE unto your seed all these countries; and in your seed shall ALL the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham OBEYED MY VOICE, AND KEPT MY CHARGE, MY COMMANDMENTS, MY STATUTES, AND MY TORAH, MY LAW.*

The promise that was made to Abraham because of His **BELIEF** in YHVH, was passed down to Isaac because of Abraham's obedience to YHVH's Torah, and part of that Torah, Commands us to **DILIGENTLY TEACH** YHVH's Torah, YHVH's heart, His Loving Character unto our children, which is exactly what Abraham did for Isaac.

Verses 13 For the promise, that Abraham should be the heir of the world, was NOT to Abraham, or to his seed, THROUGH THE TORAH (Law), but through the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF BELIEF (FAITH). 14 For IF they which are of the Torah (Law) be heirs, THEN FAITH IS MADE VOID, and the promise made of NONE EFFECT:

This is telling us that **IF** the Law was able to give us salvation, then Messiah did **NOT NEED TO DIE ON THE CROSS** for *obedience to the Law* **WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO SAVE US**; but that **IS NOT** how our heavenly Father designed His salvation plan. Our heavenly Father designed His salvation plan so that **ALL** that willingly choose to **BELIEVE** on **THE ONE THAT HE SENT**, His Living Torah, our Messiah, would be filled with His Holy Spirit, who in turn **CAUSES ALL** those that have surrendered their wills to YHVH, to walk out **ALL** of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, and all those that *choose NOT TO BELIEVE* would be on their own, and walk in bondage to the world systems. What **WE** as believers have to understand **IS THAT SALVATION IS NOT BY WORKS** but **BY BELIEF, BY FAITH THAT WORKS**.

In *verse 15* Paul explains to us what trying to keep the Torah (Law) without faith will do to each and every individual that **TRIES TO KEEP IT BY HIS OWN STRENGTH**. *Verse 15* **Because the Torah (Law) works WRATH: for where there IS NO LAW, NO TORAH THERE IS NO TRANSGRESSION**.

There is no place and or time anywhere in the history of mankind, where man has **NOT HAD THE LAW, THE TORAH AS PART OF HIS MAKE UP**. From the beginning of time man could **NOT** operate without Law, Torah. As soon as there are two people together, there has to be, a **LAW** to control their conduct towards each other. The metaphor that Paul **IS** using, *for where there is NO LAW, there is no transgression, IS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT VERY FACT*, that **IF IT WERE POSSIBLE** to have a state where there was no Law, there would **NOT** be any sin of any kind, for the Scriptures plainly tell us in *1John 3:4* that **SIN IS TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW, THE TORAH**. Therefore Paul's conclusion **IS** found in *verse 16* **Therefore it is by BELIEVING, by being faithful to YHVH and ALL His ways that it might be by grace**.

Next Paul says something which I think **IS** very profound, he says, *to the end the promise might BE SURE TO ALL THE SEED*. What Paul **is** saying **IS** that **IF** salvation **WERE BY WORKS** then **NO ONE COULD BE SURE THAT THEIR LEVEL OF WORK**, which they had performed, would be sufficient to merit them their salvation, for their will always be someone that can **KEEP** the Law, the Torah better than others, and then what would be the standard for acceptance, or for qualifying for our salvation? **NO**, our heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom has placed His salvation within reach of **EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL EVER CREATED**, and that **IS BY BELIEVING, BY FAITH in the One that He sent**, and we are told that our heavenly Father has given everyone a measure of faith, and the way to salvation **IS SURE, OR GUARANTEED TO ALL**, who willingly and lovingly choose **TO ACTIVATE THAT BELIEF, THAT FAITH**, and believe in the Creator of the universe, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the One that He sent, our Messiah, His Word made flesh, therefore we must conclude that faithfulness, emunah, אֱמוּנָה, in the Hebrew, **IS INSEPARABLE FROM OBEDIENCE TO THE TORAH (LAW) COMMONLY CALLED WORKS OF THE LAW**. Emunah, אֱמוּנָה, Strong's 'emûnâh , *em-oo-naw'*, *em-oo-naw'*; Feminine of H529; literally **firmness**; figuratively **security**; moral **fidelity**: - faith (-ful, -ly, -ness, [man]), set office, **stability, steady, truly, truth, verily**.

Strong's H529 Faith, 'emûn, *ay-moon'*; From H539; **established**, that is, (figuratively) **trusty**; also (abstractly) **trustworthiness**: - faith (-ful), **truth**.

The word faith **IS** best described as **FAITHFULNESS**, which **IS** a verb, and a verb indicates action, and that action **IS** obedience to YHVH's Torah, which has erroneously been called **WORKS OF THE LAW** where it should simply be called **OBEDIENCE**.

Paul continues on to explain that salvation **IS NOT** through the Law **BUT BY FAITH**, and that YHVH has made Abraham the father of us all. *To the end the promise might **BE SURE TO ALL THE SEED; NOT to that which is OF THE LAW ONLY (the homeborn) BUT TO THAT ALSO WHICH IS OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM (the sojourner); who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations,) before Him whom he believed, even Elohim, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.***

Next Paul gives us an example of the level of **BELIEF** (faith) that Abraham had. *Verse 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall your seed be. 19 And being **NOT weak in BELIEF (faith)**, Abraham considered **NOT** his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb.*

Abraham's belief (faith) was childlike in a sense; because once YHVH had made Abraham a promise there was absolutely **NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER** in Abraham's mind that YHVH would fulfill that promise. This is very important for all of us to grasp and understand, for **IT IS** the pattern by which we can all learn to **TRUST** YHVH. We have to understand that the Words YHVH has spoken, namely His Torah, the prophets, and the writings **ARE ABSOLUTE TRUTH**, and that no matter what the circumstances and or consequences we find ourselves in, YHVH will make what He has spoken, come to pass. Therefore **IT** behooves us to look at the Scriptures through the eyes **OF A TRUSTING CHILD** whose father has promised him something, and know down deep within our souls, without a shadow of a doubt, that what our Father has promised us, He will make it come to pass, and then **OUR BELIEF, OUR FAITH** and faithfulness will be counted unto us as righteousness. Abraham did not have one iota of doubt; *verse 20 He staggered **NOT** at the promise of Elohim through unbelief; but **WAS STRONG IN HIS BELIEF, HIS FAITH**, giving glory to Elohim; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what YHVH had promised, **HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM.***

Next is a very important statement because it tells all of us **HOW** we can become righteous. It says that once Abraham believed what YHVH had told him, that that belief was imputed to Abraham **AS RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Therefore **IF** you want YHVH to impute **RIGHTEOUSNESS TO YOU, YOU MUST** learn to believe and **TRUST HIS WORDS**, His Life Giving Torah. *22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.*

Next Paul tells us that the Scriptures were written for our benefit *verse 23 Now it was not written for Abraham's sake **ALONE**, that it was imputed to him; 24 **BUT FOR US ALSO, to whom it shall be imputed, IF WE BELIEVE ON HIM THAT RAISED UP YESHUA OUR ADONAI FROM THE DEAD; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*** Paul says that our **BELIEF** (faith) will be counted onto us for righteousness **IF WE BELIEVE IN OUR HEAVENLY FATHER** who is the One who raised up Messiah from the dead. Paul **IS** teaching us from the Hebraic Scriptures, since there were **NO** Apostolic Scriptures as of yet. We have to understand that the **SOLE PURPOSE** of Messiah's life here on earth **WAS TO TEACH US TO HEAR, LISTEN, UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE, FOLLOW, OBEY AND DO THE WORD OF OUR**

HEAVENLY FATHER. Messiah's death and resurrection was for our salvation, **BUT HIS TORAH OBEIENT LIFE WAS OUR EXAMPLE ON HOW WE ARE TO LIVE.**

Therefore **IF** we choose to follow some or all of the church father's teaching, which states that **SOME, OR ALL OF THE LAW, THE TORAH** of our heavenly Father, His words of **LIFE**, have somehow been done away with, does that **NOT THEREFORE MEAN** that we are throwing out what Paul says **IS OF BENEFIT TO US**. It seems rather insane to take something that **IS OF BENEFIT TO US** and just toss it out, because once it is tossed out, **IT IS NO LONGER OF BENEFIT TO ANYONE.**

Paul is very straight forward when he says that the Torah of YHVH was applicable in Adam's day, was applicable in Abraham's day and in Moses' day, and in Paul's day and for us today. Let us accept this message of **TRUTH**, the message that Paul gave us in *Romans 4* which tells us that **IF** we believe on Him that raised up Yeshua our Adonai from the dead; **it shall be imputed unto us as righteousness**; and learn, **NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE IN ELOHIM, BUT TO BELIEVE ELOHIM** and **ALL** of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein