



Promises by Grace Through Faith – 4:13-16

Review

- Romans 4:3-8 – faith alone – apart from works
- Romans 4:9-12 – faith alone – apart from circumcision
- Faith was reckoned as righteousness while uncircumcised so that :
 - Abraham might be the spiritual father of all who believe, either Jews or Gentiles, circumcised or uncircumcised it doesn't matter, Abraham is the spiritual father of all believers.
 - Because Abraham believed while uncircumcised he is the spiritual father of all Gentile believers
 - Because he believed and was also circumcised he is the spiritual father of the Jewish believers.
- Romans 4:13-16 – Promise through faith not law



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- The promise, to Abraham or to his descendents that he would be heir of the world
 - Would be - εἶναι – einai – verb, present, active, infinitive
 - ‘Heir of the world’ – meaning that he would be the spiritual father of all who believe, either Jew or Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised.
 - Read Genesis 17:7
- This promise is not through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
 - Not through the keeping of the Mosaic law or living ones life in light of the Mosaic law. But through faith . . .
 - God carrying out the Abrahamic covenant is unconditional, He is going to do it no matter what
 - God chose Abraham a man who believed God as the person that He was going to make this agreement with
 - Newell states, “not that faith is a righteous meritorious thing but simply a Divine mode of blessing”
 - Galatians 3:6-29



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- Law verses faith
 - Law principle – one does something therefore they are owed a payment for what they have done
 - Faith principle – one believes therefore they receive based on grace, a free gift
 - For if a person could become an heir of the promise based on law, doing some good work thereby putting God in a position that He had to make them an heir based on what they did, then becoming an heir based on faith is made void and the promise nullified.
 - ‘For’ – Paul tells us why the promise cannot be attained through the law – ‘For’ if it could then faith is made void and the promise nullified.
 - Those who are of the law – those who are out of the law or those who are basing their hope for the inheritance on the law.
 - So, if those living under law can partake of the promise two things happen: (here we have a conditional clause)
 - faith is made void and the promise nullified.



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- Faith is made void
 - *κεκένωται* - kekenootai - Is made void – perfect, passive, indicative (perfect tense – an action which has been completed and stands completed in the present)
 - To make void – deprive of its force, render vain, useless, of no effect, empty
 - “Faith has been voided and as a present result is in a state of invalidation” - Wuest
- Promise is nullified – if this were to happen to faith then the promise would be permanently inoperative
 - *κατήργηται* - kateergeetai – perfect, passive, indicative
 - Nullified – to annul, render inoperative
- Law brings about wrath
 - In verse 14 we say what the ‘law’ could not do, secure the inheritance – here in 15 we see what the law can do, bring about wrath.



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- Brings about
 - κατήργηται – katergazetai – present, middle, indicative
 - to result in
- Wrath – indignation, anger
- Law:
 - Gives no life (Romans 3:20)
 - Has no power over the flesh (Romans 8:3)
 - Is a ministration of death and condemnation (2 Cor. 3:7,9)
 - The power of sin is the law (1 Cor. 15:56)
- Where there is no law, neither is there violation
 - Violation or transgression as KJV uses – transgression is the better translation
 - παράβασις – parabasis – transgression – a going over, stepping over the mark, a disregarding
 - This is not the same word used for sin.
 - Transgression is going beyond what has been specifically set forth in a law or command



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- Every transgression is a sin but every sin is not necessarily a transgression
- Before the law was given there was sin but there was no transgression. The transgression came after the law because there was a going over or disregarding of the law, therefore the transgression.
- For this reason – what reason? Because . . .
 - The promise is not through the law
 - The promise is not going to come through the law
 - The law brings about wrath
- Therefore it is by faith so that it can be in accordance with grace.
 - Simple faith and trust in the Lord
 - Faith is not a work and is not something in which God will see as earning a wage.
 - Because of this it is in accordance with God's grace – a complete free gift from God
 - Unmeritorious – God completely gives and we simply receive



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- This is the case so that the promise may be certain to all decedents.
 - It can be certain for everyone because it is based on faith and God's grace
 - Not if you are a Jew or Gentile, have kept or don't keep the law. All of that is removed so that the only ground remaining is faith and God's grace
- All people are included
 - Abraham is the spiritual father of all who believe, either Jews or Gentiles, circumcised or uncircumcised it doesn't matter.
 - Because Abraham believed while uncircumcised he is the spiritual father of all Gentile believers
 - Because he believed and was also circumcised he is the spiritual father of the Jewish believers.