

Be Like Abraham – Look to God

May 17, 2020
Galatians 3:1-14

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

- Paul calls Abraham as a witness - *'it was counted to him as righteousness'* Gal 3:6-9
 - Oft used biblical phrase: Gen 15:6; Jas 2:23; Ro 4:3,9,22
 - foundational idea of the Reformation
 - accounting term - declared, accounted, credited...
 - Wrong: little faith was noticed and God supplemented it
- "counted to him as righteousness"
 - God treated Abraham as if he were living a righteous life
 - Abraham's faith didn't prime the pump
 - Abraham's faith was credited to him as a righteousness that didn't inherently belong to him!
- Abraham's case
 - God came to him, God was Abraham's shield Gen 12:1-2; 15:1
 - Calvin: 'Abe had nothing to glory in, he brought nothing of his own except a profession of his misery' Gen 15:2
 - God declared a legal change of status on Abraham.
 - God treated him as actually righteous though he still was unrighteous
 - Luther: simul justus et peccator - simultaneously righteous and sinful.
 - We receive God's grace by God's mercy - Eph 2:8
- Be Like Abraham
 - Believe in God's promises, not your works Gal 3:5
 - More than just believing in God Jms 2:19
 - Saving Faith: Believing what God says to provide for salvation, not our performance
 - Abraham was childless ^{Gen 15:2}
 - Abraham had a barren wife ^{Gen 16:1}
 - Abraham was old (99) ^{Gen 17:1}; Sarah (90) post-menopausal ^{Gen 17:17;18:11}
 - But God promised: Gen 12:2; 15:5-6
 - Abraham believed God: Gen 15:6; Gal 3:6
- Are You Like Abraham?
 - a man of faith in God's promises? Gal 3:9
 - OR still trying to rely on observing the law Gal 3:10
 - Our promises are all in Jesus: 2 Cor 1:20-22
 - Embrace the GOSPEL: Gal 3:8 God gives faith to us!
 - The promises were fulfilled in Christ: Gal 3:13-14
 - Great Exchange 2 Cor 5:21. Jesus took our sin - we get His righteousness.
 - Rest, Live & Walk in the Hope of the Gospel!

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