Reckoned for Righteousness
Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:
A. Gal. 3:6; Rom. 4:21-22; Gen. 15:6
B. How does God account righteousness?
   1. Is it an arbitrary process that depends on a whim?
   2. Are there any secret criteria that need to look for?
   3. Has God fully revealed to us how He accounts or imputes righteousness to men?

I. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS BASED ON GOD'S REVELATION
   A. God revealed Himself to Abraham
      1. In Ur of the Chaldees - Acts 7:2-4; Gen. 15:7
      2. At Haran of Mesopotamia - Gen. 12:1-4
      3. At Shechem in Canann - Gen. 12:6-7
      4. After Lot moved to Sodom - Gen. 13:14-17
      6. God made His will clear to Abraham; it was then up to Abraham to respond to what God had revealed about Himself
   B. Our faith must be based on what God revealed about Himself and His will
      1. Faith comes through the Word of God - Rom. 10:17
      2. It contains evidence that we might believe - John 20:30-31

II. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WILL
   A. By faith, Abraham obeyed God
      1. He left his country - Heb. 11:8
      2. He wandered in a foreign land - Heb. 11:9-10
      3. He offered his son Isaac - Heb. 11:17
      4. Abraham's faith was not a dead faith but a dynamic faith James 2:20-26
   B. By faith, we must obey God
      1. The gospel calls for obedience to the faith - Rom. 1:5, 16:25-26
      2. We obey from the heart the doctrine of Christ - Rom. 6:17; Gal. 5:6

III. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS BUILT OF TRUST
   A. Abraham trusted in God, not his own works
      1. Gen. 15:6 - Abraham believed in the Lord; his faith was reckoned for righteousness
      2. Rom. 4:1-3 - Abraham was not justified because of his works
      3. Though he had a faith that works, he did not trust in his works; rather in God who justifies the ungodly - Rom. 4:5-8
   B. We must trust in God, not our works
      1. Faith is a work - John 6:28-29
      2. Baptism is more a work of God than a work of man - Col. 2:12-13
      3. But when all is done, we must not put our trust in our obedience, as though we somehow earned our salvation - Luke 17:10
IV. ABRAHAM’S FAITH WAS A GROWING FAITH
   A. Abraham grew in faith, even though there were times when his faith was weak
      1. He had Sarah his wife tell a half-truth to save his life
      2. He questioned God when he and Sarah did not have children
         a. Gen. 15:2-3
      3. He showed weak faith in the case of Hagar - Gen. 16:1-4
      4. He offered an alternative to God when he thought it would be
         impossible for he and Sarah to have children - Gen. 17:17-18
      5. But God was patient with Abraham while his faith grew
         a. He had faith, even against hope, and was able to conceive
            Rom. 4:18-22
         b. He had faith that God could raise Isaac from the dead, and so
            was willing to offer him as commanded - Heb. 11:17-19
      6. The increasing faith of Abraham led to him be called a friend of God
         a. James 2:23
   B. We must grow in faith
      1. As the apostles of Christ - Matt. 8:25-26, 14:31
      2. Into men of great boldness - Acts 4:13
      3. Like the Thessalonians - 2Thes. 1:3
      4. Rom. 4:12

V. FAITH IS GOD’S CHOICE IN RECKONING MAN’S RIGHTEOUSNESS
   A. Justification is by God
      1. Offered freely by His grace - Rom. 3:24-25
         a. Through redemption in Jesus blood - Eph. 1:6-7; 1Peter 1:18-19
         b. Jesus offered as a propitiation or sacrifice to appease God’s
            wrath for sin - 1John 2:2, 4:10
      2. Demonstrating God’s righteousness - Rom. 3:25-26
      3. This justification is only for the one who has faith in Jesus - Rom. 3:26
   B. Eliminates potential for boasting by man
      1. Excluded by the law of faith - Rom. 3:27-30
         a. One cannot boast about the works they do - Luke 17:10
         b. The fact that faith is required implies works alone cannot save
         c. The law of faith revealed that Christ’s sacrifice was necessary
      2. Establishing the principle of law - Rom. 3:31
         a. Justification by faith doesn’t make obedience obsolete - Heb. 5:9
         b. Whether it was the Law of Moses under the Old Covenant, or the
            Will of Christ under the New Covenant, God calls for obedience -
         c. Matt. 28:20; Titus 2:11-12