

SMALL GROUP LESSON

FATHER ABRAHAM

Genesis 15:1-6 and Romans 4:1-12

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

During our study of Paul's letter to the Romans, we have been introduced to a number of words, some of which may have been unfamiliar to us. So before you answer the questions in this week's lesson, take a few moments to review these words and what they mean with regards to God's plan of salvation for humanity. Here are the words:

justification, righteousness, redemption, faith, atonement, grace and justice. Need some help? Previous sermons and lessons, especially the one for January 22, can be of some assistance.

Now having reviewed these key words in Paul's letter, are you ready for a new one? The word is **reckoning**, and these questions will help us understand how it fits into God's plan for our salvation.

1. How many times is the word **reckoning** used in Romans 4:1-12? If you are using a modern translation you may find the words **credited, considered, or declared** used in the place of **reckoned**.
2. What does this word mean? Read its definition in a dictionary and then think about its meaning as described in the sermon and in Romans 4:1-12.
3. In Romans 4:1-12, Paul introduces us to two Old Testament heroes who were reckoned by God to be righteous. How did they arrive at this state of righteousness? Was it the result of their own actions, something that they had done, or is there another reason? Read Psalm 32:1-2 and Genesis 15:1-6 and then come up with your best answer.
4. In Romans 4:5, Paul says that God justifies the ungodly (wicked). What does that mean and how does that apply to you and me?
5. In this passage of Scripture Paul declares that Abraham is the father of the faithful, including both Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles)? How did that happen and why is that important for you and me? Here's a clue. When did Abraham become the father of the Jewish nation through the act of circumcision? Did this take place before or after Abraham's declaration of faith in Genesis 15:6?
6. There is a popular TV advertisement from a credit card company that always ends with these words, "What's in your wallet?" With regards to your salvation, what's in your wallet? How much is it worth and who put it there and why?