Pastor Mark Schmechel Acts: Navigate Feb 12, 2023 Romans 4

UNCIVILIZED FAITH

1). How was Abraham saved?

Romans 4:1 (NIV) What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter?

Romans 4:2 (NIV) If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.3 What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:4 (NIV) Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.

Romans 4:5 (NIV) However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

2). When was Abraham saved?

Romans 4:9 (NIV) Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!

Romans 4:11 (NIV) And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had <u>by faith while he was still uncircumcised</u>. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:14 (NIV) For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means <u>nothing</u> and the promise is <u>worthless</u>

3). What did Abraham's faith look like?

Romans 4:22 (NIV) This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

"But then the worst thing happened that could happen to any fighter, you got civilized." -Mick to Rocky, *Rocky III*.

"Jesus is being lost in a religion bearing His name." - Erwin McManus

Genesis 12:1 (NIV) The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

Romans 4:23 (NIV) The words "it was credited to him" were written <u>not for him alone</u>, ²⁴ but also <u>for us</u>, to whom God will credit righteousness—<u>for us who believe</u> in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.