

CTS Sunday School- 2020-2021

Sunday, February 28, 2020 Justification by faith

Bible Verse: “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Lesson: Romans 4: 13-25, 5:1

Paul was an Apostle. He was not one of Jesus’ disciples that traveled around with him. Paul believed that Jesus is God’s son, and he was dedicated to telling people so that they, too, could believe. One way he told others was by sending letters to young churches. We have these letters in the New Testament! The books are identified by the name of the city associated with the letter. Example: the book of Romans was sent to people in Rome. Today’s bible passage is from The Letter of Paul to the Romans, called Romans for short.

Today’s second reading is from Paul’s letter to the Romans who were new Christians. He uses the story of Abraham to illustrate justification by faith rather than works. Just prior to this passage (Romans 3: 21-31, Romans 4: 1-12) Paul writes about God’s covenant with Abram as told in Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16. God appears to Abram (“Exalted Father”), changes his name to Abraham (“Father of a Multitude”) and promises that he will be the father of many nations. Abraham and his descendants are also promised the land of Canaan. God tells Abraham that this promise, covenant, will continue for all ages. God made the promises because of Abraham’s faith, not because Abraham followed Jewish laws or rules.

In his letter, Paul changed the story of Abraham slightly and stated that Abraham and his descendants would ‘inherit the world’. Paul makes it clear that the promises God made to Abraham are for everyone who believe in Christ (Jewish or Gentile). Throughout the passage Paul used the term “righteousness” which meant being right relationship with God through faith. The relationship is not earned by the strict following of laws or rules. The Genesis story is about a man who believed in a God who gives life to the dead. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were way too old to have children yet God sent them a son, Isaac.

At the end of the bible passage Paul wrote about Jesus being resurrected from the dead. He goes on to say that Jesus is put to death for our trespass and raised for our justification.

Abraham’s relationship with God serves as a model for us. We do not earn a right relationship with God by following rules. Jesus died and was resurrected for us. God brings us into a personal relationship with Him through divine grace and faith.

Activities

1. Coloring page of Abraham and Sarah with their son, Isaac, that God promised them.

2. Using your Bible, the map, and the puzzle page, find the names of cities where Paul sent letters helping new churches. Fill in the cities' names on the puzzle page.