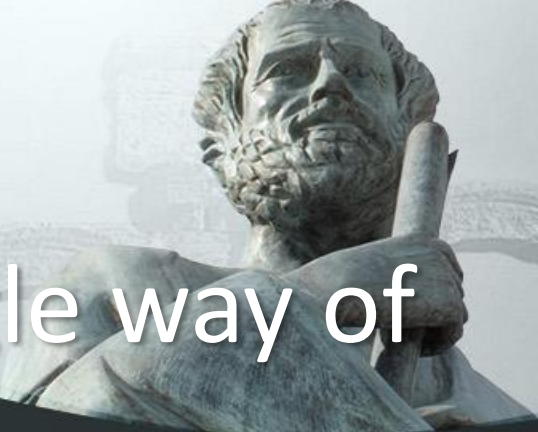


Romans 4:1-25

Significance

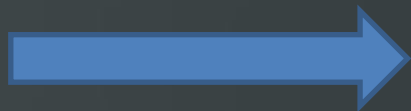
Men to Men Ministries
Session 10

A stone statue of a bearded man, likely Paul, pointing upwards with his right hand. The background shows a stone archway.

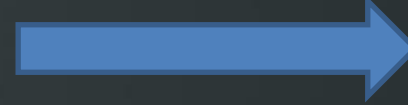
Paul's call to unity because of a single way of justification

- Chapter 2 “good works can’t change the heart.”
- Chapter 2 Good works done to earn something from God is inherently selfish
- Chapter 3 Being good in one area does not erase the fact we have broke God’s law somewhere else.
- Chapter 4 There has always been only one covenant of grace, and that men and women in both dispensations have been saved on the exactly same terms, by grace through faith.
- Romans 4:5 But to the one *who does not work*, but **believes** in Him who justifies the ungodly, his **faith** is credited as righteousness

Works



Works
+ Faith



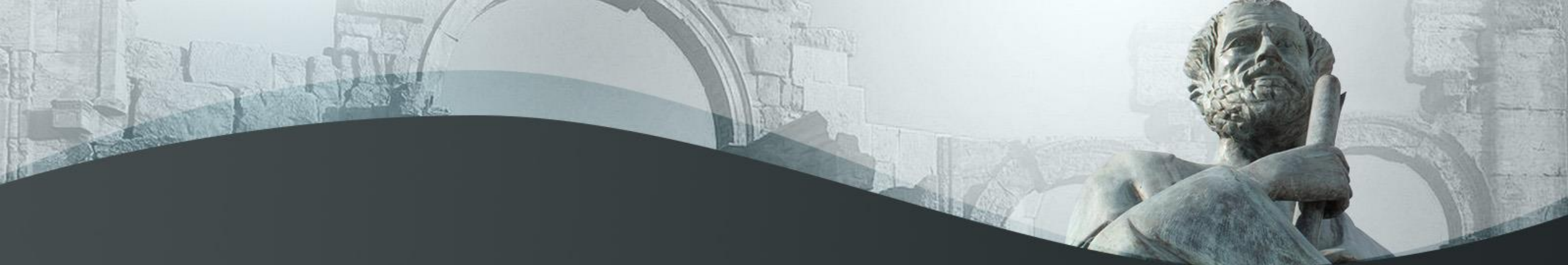
Faith



Doubts

- When do we know?
- When does the subjective give away to the objective?
- Paul Romans 4 explains what saving Faith is
- Describes it with an illustration that the Roman Church would understand
- Looks at the life one one man.
- Romans 4:9b
 - Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.

Is Faith truth?



What is Truth?

HOW Was Abraham Justified?



¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven,
And whose sins have been covered.

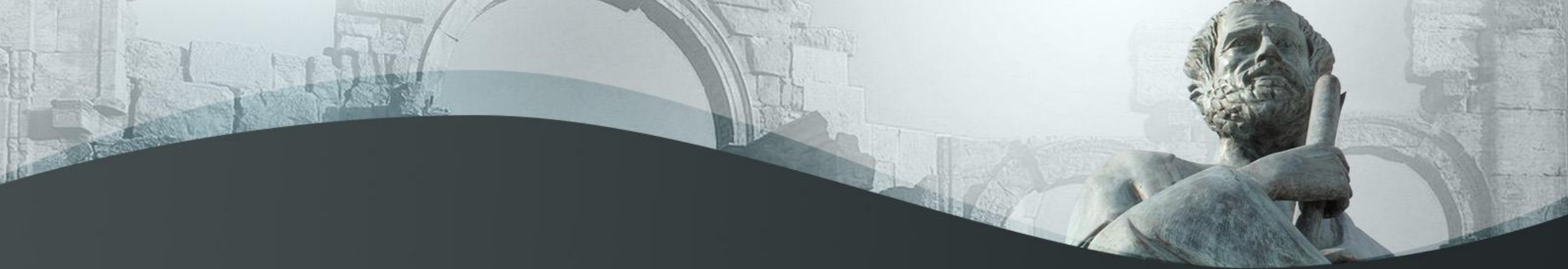
⁸ "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."

⁹ Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness."

When was Abraham saved?



Romans 4:10-12 ¹⁰ How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; ¹¹ and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, ¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.



Why was Paul so focused on
the TRUTH that we are saved
by Faith?



Faith alone keeps the imputed righteousness.

- Imputed righteousness
 - Righteousness that is ascribed, credited, assigned. (Dikaioo)
 - It is not to take something and make something different
 - It is a badge of belonging to God
 - When God sees you all he sees is your red badge of courage and faith.
- The associated blessing Romans 4:6
 - Speaking of David
 - Being blessed not by his works but by the credit given by God
 - No reason to boast if it is God's work not my own



But what about Circumcision?

- That is an act. That is a ceremony ordained by God. It is an outward sign of acceptance of God. It is a mark of a special covenant between Abraham and all his generations. The ritual is still part of the Law.
- What Paul was asking was is this ritual the same as Justification and forgiveness. V6-8
- Does this Justification and forgiveness also apply to those who have not been circumcised?
- How was his faith credited as Righteousness? Before or after circumcision?
- Getting right with God and being accepted by God does not come with circumcision.



Faith alone sets works in the right place.

- Works or acts of obedience have their proper and essential place in the believer's life, but not as the means of justification.
- There is a place for works in relation to Faith. Romans 1:5
- For Abraham the mark or seal of his faith was circumcision (a work)
- God-exalting obedience comes from faith.
- When your life begins to conform to the will of God, this is a sign. It is a sign and seal that your faith is real and that you have unshakable righteousness, namely, the righteousness of God in Christ.
- Paul was not destroying the worth of works but putting them in the right order and for the right reason.



Faith alone opens covenant to all

- Gentiles to can be a part of the covenant
- Jews and all the other ethnic groups in the world - including Anglo-Saxons, African-Americans, Hispanic, Asian, Somali, Ethiopian, Turkish people, Kosovars, Kazaks, Uzbeks, Maninke, Sukumu.
- *V11 [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised [Gentiles, nations], that righteousness might be credited to them."*

Faith alone and not works = No Boasting

If we are all saved by a free gift of God what is there to boast about?

