



## Sermon Discussion Questions

"Credited"

Romans 4

September 11, 2016

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**Note:** The questions are meant to dig deeper into the text for understanding and application. Depending on the needs and time constraints of the group, the SDG leader may want to ask only selected questions and let the group members tackle the other questions on their own.

### A. Read Romans 4:1-8. How do we see ourselves?

1. Why did Paul raise the issue of boasting in Romans 3:27, Romans 4:2 and even Ephesians 2:8-9 ('that no man should boast')? Shouldn't we be proud of the good things we have done?
2. What were the Jews boasting about? (Clues are found in Romans 2:17-20, 3:1-2.)
3. In what ways can we find ourselves similarly boasting?
4. In Romans 4:3 (quoting Genesis 15:6), "credit" here means "put into one's account." According to Paul in Romans 4:4-5, what are two basic scenarios of someone putting money into your account?
5. Paul quoted David (Psalm 32:1-2) as he wrote Romans 4:6-8. Take a detour and read the entire Psalm 32 (it only has 11 verses). Which scenario do you think David belonged to? Why?
6. Which scenario do you tend to belong to? Why?

### B. Romans 4:9-15. What are we depending on?

1. How did the Jews apparently understand circumcision? To be specific, what did they think was the role of circumcision as far as salvation is concerned?
2. How would such a Jew be shocked upon realizing that God justified Abraham before he was circumcised?
3. In Paul's time, what else were the Jews depending on for their justification? (A summary can be found in Acts 15:1-5.)
4. What are the things we tend to depend on to be in a right relationship with God? Are they good or bad?
5. According to Paul, what should we rightly depend on in order to be justified by God?

### C. Read Romans 4:16-25. What is the faith that saves?

1. Romans 4 teaches that God credits our faith as righteousness. But wouldn't that make faith a kind of works (i.e. the act of believing is the good work that brings you to heaven)? Why or why not?
2. Read James 2:19. What is missing from the demons' 'belief' in God that does not make them saved?
3. It was as if God took His sweet time to fulfill His promise of an heir for Abraham. Twenty-five years, in fact. Why do you think God did that? How does that connect with Abraham's faith?
4. Abraham was said to be 'fully persuaded' in his faith. Does that mean doubt has no part in our Christian life? If we doubt, do we lose our salvation? Why or why not?
5. What parallels did Paul make between Abraham's faith and the Christian's faith?
6. Summarize the kind of faith wherein God credits as righteousness.

**FINAL QUESTION:** Are you certain you have the faith that God credits to your righteousness? Why or why not?