**“Saved Through Faith Alone!”**

**(Romans 4:1-8)**

**Can Heaven really be gained by simple faith apart from works? In our text today Paul illustrates this truth by pointing to two great Jewish heroes, Abraham and David. We are given great cause to rejoice in the gift of our salvation as we consider…**

1. **The EXAMPLE of Faith Alone (1-3)**
* **Abraham Not Justified By Works (1-2)**
* **Abraham Justified By Faith (3)**

(Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6, 16; John 8:56)

1. **The EXPLANATION of Faith Alone (4-5)**
* **Works 🡪 Reward is Owed (4)**
* **Faith 🡪 Reward is Freely Given (5)**

 (Romans 11:6)

1. **The EXPERIENCE of Faith Alone (6-8)**
* **The Joy of Righteousness Imputed (6)**
* **The Joy of Sin Not Imputed (7-8)**

 (Psalm 32:1-5; 103:12)

**“Saved Through Faith Alone!”**

**(Romans 4:1-8)**

 **Small Group Discussion Guide**

**1. Read and discuss Romans 4:1-5. Some might argue that**

 **Forgiveness by faith alone without works would lead to licentious**

 **(sinful) living. How would you respond to this? James 2:17-19**

 **seems to say that simple faith is not enough for salvation because**

 **even the demons believe in Jesus. Does this contradict what Paul**

 **is saying in Romans 4:5? How can both be true?**

**2. Is it fair for God to forgive an evil murderer who trusts in Christ,**

 **but to condemn a loving person who didn’t trust in Christ?**

 **Why/why not?**

**3. Why is *“Him that justifieth the ungodly”* such a great description of**

 **our God (Romans 4:5)? Why must I see myself as ungodly before I**

 **can be justified?**

**4. Read and discuss Romans 4:6-8. Why does Paul point to David to**

 **help make his case? Why was David so overjoyed with God’s**

 **forgiveness? Share why you are thankful/joyful for God’s**

 **forgiveness.**

**Digging Deeper:**

**1. Read Galatians 3:6-16 and note similarities to Romans 4:1-8.**

**2. Read Genesis 15:1-6 and note the context in which Abraham**

 **believes God and is thus declared righteous. Compare to Galatians**

 **3:16. How does this affect your understanding of John 8:56?**

**3. Romans 4 begins with the phrase *“What shall we say then.”***

**Observe the other 5 occurrences of this key phrase in Romans 6:1;**

 **7:7; 8:31; 9:14 and 9:30. What important points is Paul making in**

 **each of these places?**

**4. Compare Romans 4:6-8 with Psalm 32:1-2 and note any**

 **differences. Reflect upon Psalm 32:1-5 in a personal way, and take**

 **some time to praise and thank God for His wonderful forgiveness.**