

Romans 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Analysis

And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Paul returns full circle to Genesis 15:6, his keystone verse. The particle *dio* (διό, "therefore") makes Abraham's faith described in vv. 18-21 the reason for imputation. The verb *elogisthē* (ἐλογίσθη, "it was reckoned/imputed") appears for the eighth time in this chapter—Paul's signature term for forensic justification. The phrase *eis dikaiosunēn* (εἰς δικαιοσύνην, "for righteousness") expresses result: faith resulted in credited righteousness.

But what kind of faith? Not mere belief in God's existence (even demons have that, James 2:19), but trust in God's promise despite impossible circumstances, confidence in God's power to do what He said, and persevering conviction that honors God by taking Him at His word. This faith—empty-handed trust in God's promise rather than one's own merit—is what God credits as righteousness. Abraham models both the what (faith, not works) and the how (trusting God's promise about what seems dead to produce life) of justification.

Historical Context

By returning to Genesis 15:6 after expounding Abraham's faith in verses 17-21, Paul shows that this was not empty trust but rich, God-centered conviction in God's character and power. First-century readers familiar with Abraham's story would recognize Paul is drawing from multiple Genesis texts (chapters 15, 17, 21-22) to paint a comprehensive picture of the patriarch's faith—all of which preceded and transcended circumcision or law-keeping.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul repeat Genesis 15:6 here after expounding it, and what has he added to our understanding of Abraham's faith?
2. What specific qualities of Abraham's faith (vv. 18-21) explain why God credited it as righteousness?
3. How does Abraham's faith in God's promise about Isaac model the kind of faith that justifies sinners today?

Interlinear Text

διὸ καὶ ἐλογίσθη αὐτῷ εἰς δικαιοσύνην
therefore And it was imputed to him for righteousness
G1352 G2532 G3049 G846 G1519 G1343

Additional Cross-References

Romans 4:6 (Righteousness): Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Romans 4:3 (Righteousness): For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.