

## Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 4:13-25 Heirs of the World by Promise

**God glorifies His grace by promising His heirs the world through faith.**

### 1) The Promise: That Abraham and his seed would be heirs of the world (4:13)

- a) "Abraham and his offspring" defined by common faith
- b) "heir of the world"—Promised Land expanded to Promised Cosmos; reading each text in larger context of whole counsel of God
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Abrahamic Faith is personal and public, not private.
  - ii) Abrahamic Promise is Godward stewardship of creation, not creation denying.

### 2) The Path: Not through law, but through righteousness of faith (4:13-16, 22-23)

- a) "not through law" (4:13a)—Don't get to Promised Land by the path of law/works
  - i) "For the law brings wrath" (4:15a)—implied we have transgressed law; everyone who travels the path of law finds they have not stayed on the path
  - ii) "where there is no law there is no transgression" (4:15b)—if you're not on the path of law you will not transgress the boundaries of the path
- b) "but through the righteousness of faith" (4:13b)—The Promised Land arrives on the path of justification by faith.
  - i) "that the promise may rest on grace" (4:16a)—faith accords with grace (cf. 4:4-5)
  - ii) "and be guaranteed to all his seed" (4:16b)—the righteousness of faith makes the promise sure
  - iii) "father of us all" (4:16c)—Jew and Gentile; grounded in Scripture (4:17a; Genesis 17:5)
  - iv) "In hope he believed against hope . . . 'So shall your seed be.'" (4:18)— confidence in God's promise (4:18; quoting Genesis 15:5)
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Abrahamic Faith is not in personal morality, but in Divine promise.
  - ii) Abrahamic Faith humbles human arrogance while highlighting Divine grace.

### 3) The Power: God who creates ex nihilo and raised Jesus from the dead (4:17-21, 24-25)

- a) "He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body . . . the barrenness of Sarah's womb"—faith learns to look away from self
- b) "He grew strong in faith as he gave glory to God"—faith learns to look to God
  - i) "who gives life to the dead"
  - ii) "calls into existence things that do not exist"
  - iii) "fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised"
  - iv) "who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord"
    - (1) "who was delivered up for our trespasses"—union with Christ in His death to/for sin
    - (2) "raised for our justification"—union with Christ in His resurrection/vindication
- c) **Application:** Abrahamic Faith is counted to us as righteousness.

**Doxology:** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.