

## **“Under Cover”**

Pastor Jeff Alexander + March 12, 2017

**As the Apostle Paul teaches how we are made right with God (justified) by faith, he seeks to show that this teaching is nothing new.**

### **Romans 4:3**

What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

**Abraham took God at His Word. He placed his confidence in the Lord and, in so doing, received the gift of eternal life.**

### **Romans 4:6-8**

David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them” (*Psalm 32:1-2*).

**King David took God at His Word. He knew his sins were forgiven by the Lord, covered by the Lord’s mercy and not counted against him.**

### **Romans 4:13-15**

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

**The Old Testament believers received the same Law of God that we receive. These commands of God can never save us; they work to expose our transgressions.**

**Like a mirror, the Law reveals who we are apart from the Lord and how much we need His forgiveness and restoration.**

### **Romans 4:16-17**

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

**By faith, we receive the promise of God’s grace and are given His guarantee.**

**Along with Abraham, David and all the believers of old, we have the same God, who alone gives life and covers us in His mercy.**

### ***Galatians 3:26-28***

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*