

Sermon Text: Romans 4:18-25

Sermon Theme: Against All Hope,
Abraham Did Not Waiver Regarding God's Promise?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering

Offering Prayer

Prayer Of The Church

Lord's Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 415 vs. 1 / TLH 651**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 414 vss. 3-4 / TLH 529**

SERMON TEXT: Romans 4:18-25

Vs. 18 - Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Vs. 19 - Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Vs. 20 - Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

Vs. 21 - being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Vs. 22 - This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

Vs. 23 - The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,

Vs. 24 - but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Vs. 25 – He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

GREETING: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! (I John 3:1)

Has your heart been groaning due to recent issues happening in our world?

A few words that can spark all kinds of thoughts and emotions would include:

Quarantine – Stay at Home – Shut downs – Increased unemployment – Food lines -
Violence – Protests – Riots – Injustice.

If you have found your heart groaning more than usual and you have shed a few tears while with family or on your own, you are not alone. Listen to the Word of our Lord as recorded by the Apostle Paul in the letter to the **Romans 8:22-23a**

– "We know that the whole creation has been GROANING as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 – not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit GROAN inwardly."

As God tells us in these verses of Romans chapter eight, “THE WHOLE CREATION GROANS!”

The situations in life and in our world can make us feel helpless and hopeless.

The Apostle Paul also gives us some insight into the word HOPE – when he writes in the second half of verse 23 of Romans chapter eight – which began with: 23 – not only so, be we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly.”

The Apostle Paul continued with “As we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this HOPE we were saved. But HOPE that is seen is no HOPE at all. Who HOPES for what he already has? But if we HOPE for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”

Today’s Text from Romans Chapter 4:18-25 speaks of Abraham’s HOPE.

Abraham did not see the fruit of his HOPE until he was 100 years old.

To get into the heart and mind of Abraham, let us look at some of the things that we know about his life.

(It seems that Abraham was 58 years old when Noah died.)

We first learn of Abraham in Genesis 11:27 where it speaks of Abraham’s father who is named TERAH.

(On this Father’s Day we remember the blessings of our earthly father AND our heavenly Father Who gave His Son – Jesus - for our Salvation)

We learn from Scripture that Abraham’s father was from the Ur of the Chaldeans, the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers which is present day Iraq (Genesis 11:28).

From the Ur of the Chaldees, Terah moved to Haran.

(Haran is further north along the Euphrates River in the area of present day Syria)

It was while Abraham was in Haran that the Lord God appeared to Abraham at the age of 75 and said: “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1-4)

The Lord also told Abraham at that time that HE would bless Abraham, and Abraham would become a great nation and ALL the peoples on the earth would be blessed through Abraham!

What did Abraham do when the Lord directed Abraham to do this?

Abraham left Haran and went to a place that the Lord God would show him.

Abraham took with him his wife Sarah, and his nephew LOT. (Gen. 12:4-5)

Now put yourself in the shoes of Abraham. He was 75 years old. His wife Sarah we learn is 10 years younger than Abraham, so that makes her 65 at this time, and she was barren, no children, yet the Lord said to Abraham that he would become a great nation.

A nation is a group of people.

As Abraham continued to go wherever the Lord God directed him to go, Abraham began to wonder.

In **Genesis 15:2** Abraham prayed: “O Sovereign Lord, what can You give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is my servant Eliezer?”

Abraham trusted God’s Promise, yet his mind and heart were playing games.

To this the Lord God took Abraham outside and said to Abraham.

“Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them. So shall your offspring be.” (**Genesis 15:4-5**)

(It is also reaffirmed that Abraham’s descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky in Hebrews 11:12)

And so Abraham carried on – Trusting in the Lord God. Placing his Hope in God’s Promise as we hear in today’s text:

Vs. 20 - Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

Vs. 21 - being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

As a believer in The God of all creation, it does not mean that it will be easy and that our hearts and minds will always be “feeling good”.

We are told that: **Vs. 22 - “it was credited to him (Abraham) as righteousness.”**

- δικαιοσύνην -

Abraham was credited as Right in the eyes of God, through faith in the promised Savior. Abraham was declared not guilty of any and every sin.

This Righteousness of God is not only for Abraham,

Vs. 24 - but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Vs. 25 – He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life FOR OUR justification. - δικαιοσύνην -

Because of Christ Jesus, our sins are covered. We are Justified, that is we are Declared NOT guilty Because of Jesus, and thus we are heirs of eternal life in heaven.

This is God’s promise.

Sometimes we may be struggling in our faith. Does that make us a bad Christian?

That is a reminder that we are flesh and blood.

It is a reminder that we cannot save ourselves from the fires of hell, we cannot even assist in our salvation.

Our Salvation is ALL God’s Work.

When Abraham had the son that God Promised, Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years Old. Their son – Isaac – was not because of the strength of Abraham and Sarah, but because of God’s Promise.

Our Salvation, that is, the forgiveness of sins and eternal Life in heaven is ALL God.

We can look forward to heaven where there is no more sin or death or pain or sorrow because of God in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior. (Rev. 21:1-7)

We can look forward to heaven where we by God’s grace and according to His promise we will have new glorified bodies. (Philippians 3:20-21)

And so my friends in Christ, even on those days when your faith is wavering, God’s Promise is constant. It does not Change. God does not change. Your sins are forgiven. You are declared not Guilty by the blood of Jesus Christ, heaven is your home because of Jesus Your Risen Savior and mine. AMEN

Our Heavenly Father’s Business at St. John’s

Sunday, June 21 – 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, June 24 – Ladies Aid Society Meeting – Cancelled Due to COVID-19

Sunday, June 28 – 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

July 6-10 – Vacation Bible School- 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. With COVID-19 Precautions.

Individually Wrapped Snacks Needed – for Vacation Bible School. Anyone who would like to supply some individually wrapped snacks for VBS is asked to please bring them to the church before Wednesday July 1st. Items such as individually wrapped Ice-cream bars, Chocolate chip cookies, Little Debbie etc. Anyone who wants to drop them off without entering the church building can just call the Pastor and arrange for a drop off time.

Dear Guests! – Welcome to St. John’s! It is an honor and joy that you were able to come and join together with us in public worship of our Lord. If you would like to learn more about the Holy Bible or would like to become a member, please contact the Pastor either via phone or e-mail: Phone: 734-761-1740;

E-mail: stjohnsnorthfield2015@gmail.com