

THE ETERNAL METHOD OF SALVATION

Romans 4:1-16

Introduction:

- John Darby (1830's) developed a system of theology called Dispensationalism, dividing the ages into seven dispensations.
 1. Innocence – from the time of the creation of Adam and Eve until they s_____.
 2. Conscience – from the time of the fall until the universal f_____ (but see Rom 2:15).
 3. Government – from the time of the survivors of the flood (Noah & family) until the confusion of l_____ (but see Rom 13:1).
 4. Promise – from the time God gave His promise to Abraham until the giving of the L_____ (but see Gen 3:15).
 5. Law – from the time Moses gave the Law until the time of C_____’s death (Darby taught that salvation was through the keeping of the Law – but see examples of people saved apart from the Law in Josh 2:8-11 with Heb 11:31; 2 Kgs 5:17; Jonah 4:11).
 6. Grace – from the time of the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 until the time of the s_____ coming of Christ (Darby taught that only in this dispensation that people were saved by grace).
 7. Kingdom – begins when Jesus sets up His kingdom on e_____ (but see Lk 17:31; Col 1:13).
- Beware of the following unbiblical teachings:
 1. God has c_____ the means of salvation throughout the ages.
 2. God has m_____ ways of salvation today
- Today we will hear the testimony of three people that show the salvation has always been by grace through faith.

The Testimony of Moses (1-5, 9-12)

- Genesis was the first book of five written by M_____.
- Rom 4:3,9 is a quote from Gen 15:6 concerning A_____.
 1. Abraham came out of a p_____ background and so believed in many gods (Yahweh was just one of many).
 2. Abraham was 75 when he obeyed God’s call to l_____ his family and country (Gen 12:4).
 3. Abraham did not believe in God to be his God until Gen 15:6, which was _____ years after obeying God’s call.
 - a. God counted Abraham’s faith as r_____ (Rom 4:3).
 - b. Abraham did not become righteous by w_____ (Rom 4:2); he was ungodly!
 4. Therefore, God justifies (i.e. declares righteous) the un_____ by faith not by works (Rom 4:4,5).
- In Paul’s day some taught that the covenant of circumcision as a requirement for being a Christian.
 1. The covenant of circumcision was not given to Abraham until Gen 17, which was _____ years after he trusted in God (see Gen 16:16; 17:1)
 2. Paul argues that Abraham becomes a father of all who have f_____, whether circumcised or not (Rom 4:11,12)
- Today some try to make b_____ a requirement of salvation
 1. Often paralleled with circumcision and so is taught by some to be a requirement for salvation.
 2. But if circumcision was not a requirement then neither can baptism be one.
 3. There is only one way – through f_____

The Testimony of David (6-8)

- David lived during the time of the Old C_____.

where the Mosaic Law was the standard for every Israelite. Paul quotes a psalm of David to drive his point (Ps 32:1,2)

1. David did not write, "How blessed is the one who keeps the L_____.
2. David wrote, "How blessed is the one whose sins have been f_____, c_____, and not taken into account by the Lord.
3. David understood these actions of God as a g_____ of righteousness without any works (Rom 4:6)

●What does "blessed" mean?

1. It is not an e_____ state (see Matt 5:4)
2. It is not when our c_____ are good (see Matt 5:10,11)
3. It is a state of being that is unaffected by our emotions or circumstances – true happiness only comes to those who have been f_____ by God (this cannot be taken away from you – how blessed we are!)

The Testimony of Paul (13-16)

●Paul links the past to the present with f_____

1. The promise to Abraham and to his descendants was not through l_____ but faith (v. 13)
 - a. There is no "the" in the Greek text before "law" and so means "rule k_____"
 - b. Therefore, the only requirement for being a descendant of Abraham was f_____
2. If the promise were through rule-keeping, then it would nullify f_____ (v. 14)
 - a. Where there is no law there is no v_____ (v. 15b) – if there were no speed limit laws, speeding would not be a violation
 - b. The law brings about w_____ (v. 15a) – if you break the speed law, you will incur the wrath of that law.
3. All are descendants of Abraham by f_____ (v. 16)
 - a. Whether you are of the L_____ (reference to the Mosaic Law)
 - b. Or if you are of faith (implication - without the Law)

●If you have faith in Christ, you are a descendant of Abraham

1. You are a d_____ of Abraham (this is how Abraham is the father of many nations)
2. You inherit the p_____ to Abraham

Conclusion:

- The means of salvation has been and always will be one way – through f_____ in God as He has revealed Himself
- How do you count yourself righteous?
- How do you count yourself blessed?