**Father Abraham pt. 1: By Faith, Not by Works**

**(Rom. 4:1-8)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In your own words, explain the following: why Romans 4:1-8 is crucial to a proper understanding of the gospel, what justification by faith means, and the reasoning behind Paul’s use of Abraham as an example of salvation by faith. Why is Paul concerned about the issue of boasting (Rom. 3:27, 4:2)? In what way(s) is Romans 4:3 Paul’s banner verse for the entire chapter?
2. Review Genesis 12-22 in regards to the life of Abraham. What sins do you see Abraham caving to? Why? How does this undermine the idea that Abraham was saved by his righteous deeds? In what way(s) does this offer hope to believers today? How does Hebrews 11:8-19 help us understand Abraham’s mindset during his lifetime? How should we apply this to our lives?
3. In your own words, explain how the idea of “wages” (putting God in our debt) diminishes grace. Why is this detrimental to our understanding of the gospel? What are the implications for the Christian life? What are some ways that people attempt to put God in their debt today? In what way(s) are you prone to this in your own life? Specifically, how has Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (good people are rewarded with good things) and Neonomianism (new law) impacted your life? How does the doctrine of justification by faith alone free you from their joy-sapping tyranny?
4. Review 2 Samuel 11 and Psalm 51. In your own words, explain how David understood grace. Why is it important for Paul to quote David in Romans 4:1-8? How does it bolster Paul’s argument? What practical implications does (or should) a robust understanding of justification by faith alone/salvation by grace alone have for the repentant sinner? How many modern or historic songs and hymns can you list that highlight the glory of God in his free and gracious pardon of sinners?