

Sermon Discussion Questions
October 22, 2017
Even Abraham? Yes, Even Abraham!
Romans 4
Tim Kallam

Sermon thought: Abraham would say his righteousness or justification is based on faith and not by keeping the law.

1. Why do you think Paul uses Abraham as the ultimate validation of justification by faith?
2. Tim mentioned six arguments for the doctrine of justification by faith: 1) It has always been God's plan; 2) It's not based on human effort, but God's grace; 3) It brings about the joy of forgiveness; 4) It produced assurance instead of anxiety; 5) It provides hope when all seems hopeless; and 6) It is credited to all who believe. In your walk of faith, does one of those arguments mean more to you than the others? Explain.
3. Read verses 18-22. Tim defined hope as "supernatural hope in the hopelessness of the natural." Have you ever been in a situation that you considered hopeless? What did you do? Did it cause you to focus on God? How did things turn out? Did the result cause you to glorify God?
4. Tim used this illustration to close his message:

Many years ago, there was a learned Hebrew professor at Princeton Seminary named Robert Dick Wilson. He could read more than 30 Semitic languages! One time about twelve years after Donald Grey Barnhouse had graduated; he went back to the seminary to preach to the students. Dr. Wilson sat down near the front. After the message, he went forward and shook Barnhouse's hand. He said, "When my boys come back, I come to see if they are big-godders or little-godders, and then I know what their ministry will be." Barnhouse asked him to explain and he replied, "Well, some men have a little god and they are always in trouble with him. He can't do any miracles. He can't take care of the inspiration and transmission of the Scripture to us. He doesn't intervene on behalf of His people. They have a little god and I call them little-godders. Then there are those who have a great God. He speaks and it is done. He commands and it stands fast. He knows how to show Himself strong on behalf of them that fear Him." He went on to tell Barnhouse that he could see that he had a great God and that God would bless him and his mission.

In your faith walk, are you a Big-Godder or a Little-Godder? Why or why not?