

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 4:1-25; 4:13.**
- B. The scripture says that the promise given unto Abraham is also for his descendants. What is this promise and who are his descendants?

I. THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT ROMANS 4:13.

- A. First, what is this promise?
It is ultimately the forgiveness of sins through Jesus blood (Gen. 12:1-3; Rom. 4:7,8).
- B. Second, to whom is the promise given?
It is given unto Abraham and to his descendants, which according to the promise is all of the families of the earth (Gen. 12:3; Rom. 4:13).
- C. Third, who are Abraham's descendants, or is it possible to become one of Abraham's descendants?
The answers are four-fold and yes, one can become a descendant to share in this great blessing.

II. FOUR WAYS TO LOOK AT THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM.

- A. First, there were the physical, immediate family members;
 - 1. Hagar bore to Abraham Ishmael at Sarah's request (Gen. 16:2,15).
 - 2. Sarah bore to Abraham, Isaac who was to become the father of Jacob (Israel), (Gen. 21:1-5).
 - 3. Keturah bore to Abraham six children (Gen. 25:1-10).
- B. Of these descendants those born by Hagar and Keturah were not of the spiritual Israel. Only those of Sarah were considered by Paul to be true Israel (Rom. 9:6-8).
- C. Secondly, then, there were two kinds of Israel. There was the line of descendants from Isaac which from it would come Jesus, and there were many others who could trace their "roots" back to Abraham but did not receive the blessing of being true Israel (Ac. 13:26).
- D. Thirdly, there is Christ Himself, who is the singular seed of Abraham. This is how all families of the earth will be blessed and how there is forgiveness of sins among the descendants of Abraham (Gal. 3:16; Ac. 3:25,26; 2:30-32).
- E. Fourthly, the descendants of Abraham are those who are sons of God by being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-29).

III. WHY WE CAN BE ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING.

- A. The reason Paul can make the statement that Christians are of Abraham's offspring is because the promise originally given was given not according to literal posterity, or according to the Law, but according to the righteousness which is by faith (Rom.4:13,16).
- B. The scriptures teach that it is by faith that we are baptized into Christ (Col. 2:12; Mk. 16:16).
- C. Being part of Abraham's offspring is to be heirs with him of the world and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 4:13; 8:16,17).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. As Jesus was of true Israel, and therefore a descendant of Abraham, He blessed the world with forgiveness of sins. By becoming a Christian we too share in the posterity of Abraham and enjoy the forgiveness of sins by Jesus' blood.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.