

^{4.1} What then can we discover from Abraham our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was made righteous from works he has a boast, but not before the Creator. ³ For what does the Scripture in Genesis 15 say? “*Abraham was faithful to the Creator and it was counted to him for righteousness.*” ⁴ To the one who is working, the pay is not given according to generosity but according to obligation. ⁵ But to the one who is not working, then being faithful to the one who makes the irreverent righteous, his faithfulness is counted for righteousness. ⁶ Just as even David says in Psalm 32 of the blessed man to whom the Creator counts as righteous apart from works, ⁷ “*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are released and whose sins are covered.*” ⁸ *Blessed is the one whose sin is never counted by the Lord.*” ⁹ So is this blessing upon the circumcised or the uncircumcised? For we say, “*Faithfulness was counted as righteousness for Abraham.*” ¹⁰ What was his state when it was counted? In circumcision or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision but in uncircumcision! ¹¹ Abraham received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness of faithfulness. He received this while he was still uncircumcised, so he would be the father of all those who are faithful while uncircumcised, so they also might have righteousness counted to them. ¹² He also is the father of the circumcised, who are not only circumcised, but also walk in the footsteps of the faithfulness of our father Abraham when he was uncircumcised.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his seed, that he would inherit the creation, was not through the law but through the righteousness of faithfulness. ¹⁴ For if they were inheritors from the law, then faithfulness has been made irrelevant and the promise eliminated. ¹⁵ For the law works anger. Where there is no law, there is no violation. ¹⁶ Therefore, they are inheritors because of faithfulness, so that the inheritance comes by generosity. This is so that the promise is certain to all the seed—not only to the one from the law, but also to the one from the faithfulness of Abraham, who is the father of us all. ¹⁷ Just as it is written in Genesis 17, “*I have established you as the father of many ethnic-groups.*” Abraham was faithful to the Creator who brings life from death and calls into being that which does not exist. ¹⁸ He was faithful in hope when there was no hope and became the father of many ethnic-groups according to what had been spoken in Genesis 15, “*Your seed will be like this.*” ¹⁹ Not being weak in faithfulness, Abraham saw clearly that his own body was dead, being about one hundred years old, and that the womb of Sarah was dead. ²⁰ But Abraham did not hesitate in unfaithfulness at the Creator’s promise, but he was strong in faithfulness, giving glory to the Creator. ²¹ Abraham was fully convinced that the Creator was able to do what he promised. ²² Therefore, it was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ²³ This was not written for him only in Genesis 15, “*It was counted to him.*” ²⁴ It was also written for us. We, who are faithful to the one who resurrected Jesus our Lord from the dead, are about to be counted. ²⁵ Jesus was given over because of our sins, but he was resurrected to make us righteous.