Lesson #7
TEXT: Rom. 4:1-12 (Justification by faith is illustrated and Demonstrated.)

I. Justification was not by works before the law. Rom. 4:1-4

Abraham found another way for a man in the flesh to be justified.

a. If Abraham was justified by works
   1. He has reasons to glory in himself
   2. God would be in debt to Abraham to reward him for his works.

b. If Abraham was justified by faith alone
   1. He has reasons to glory in God alone
   2. His faith was counted for righteousness

c. What Abraham found
   1. That works, rewards, and debt goes together.
   2. That believe (faith), grace, and God’s righteousness goes together.

II. Justification was not by works under the law. Rom. 4:5-8

a. Justification clears you from what you have done. (sins)

b. Justification clothes you in what Christ has done. (righteousness)

c. David’s three greatest blessings: This is the essence of Grace

   1. Righteousness imputed (put to your account) without works
   2. Iniquities (sins) are forgiven, because they are covered
      a. In the old testament by blood of animals (type)
      b. In the new testament by the blood of Christ
   3. Will not (in the future) impute sins to him

III. Justification was not by ordinances. Rom. 4:9-12

Was the three point blessings mentioned by David for the circumcision (Jews) only, or for the uncircumcision (Gentiles) also?

a. Abraham was justified by faith while he was still uncircumcised
b. Abraham received the sign of circumcision (a cutting off of the physical flesh, which was a type of separation from the first birth of the flesh), which was a seal of the righteousness he already had received.

c. Abraham was the father of all who believe, by receiving God’s righteousness by faith before he was circumcised, that shows that righteousness might be imputed to Gentiles also.