

# Bible Study 2C

## Put Right with God by Faith

(Galatians 3:6-9)

1. In Study 2B we saw that when Saul read the Old Testament as a child in the Tarsus synagogue he had a favourite Bible hero, who was Abraham. Paul's letters show just how highly he thought of Abraham. For example, the passage we are going to study today mentions him often.

Read Galatians 3:6-9, noting how many times Abraham's name appears.

- a) In how many of these verses does Abraham's name appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) Which two verses mention the **blessing** promised to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Paul attached a lot of importance to the blessing to all nations that was promised to Abraham. The Scripture quotation mentioned in Galatians 3:8 referring to this blessing is from Genesis 12:1-3.

From which verse in Genesis 12:1-3 does Paul take this quotation in Galatians 3:8? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In our study we are going to answer the following two questions about this promised blessing. Will someone read them out slowly?  
A. What is the blessing promised to Abraham?  
B. How can one receive this blessing?

### A. What is the blessing promised to Abraham?

4. Now exactly what **was** this blessing to all nations that God promised to Abraham? Gal.3:8 tells us. Choose the right answer:

- a. Great wealth to buy every luxury.  
 b. A strong army to overcome all enemies.  
 c. A way to be justified (put right with God).  
 d. Beautiful houses to live in comfortably.

5. So the blessing promised to us through Abraham is this:

**We can be justified (put right with God).**

But why do we need to be put right with God? Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:10 will tell you why.

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6. Martin Luther, a man who did much to bring back the purity of the Gospel at a time when it had been nearly lost, said:

*“Of all Christian doctrines, being justified (put right with God) is the most important. It is what makes real Christians, and, if lost, all true Christian doctrine is lost too.”*

If this is so, it’s worthwhile understanding what it means, isn’t it?

To be put right with God means that the believer, even though he is still a sinner, if repentant, is forgiven and accepted by God **just as if he were righteous**. What a miracle!

Now read 2 Corinthians 5:21 which describes exactly what being justified, put right with God (or accepted by God just as if you were righteous) really means.

How does picture 1, on page 58, illustrate this wonderful truth?

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7. Take a quick look at Revelation 7:9 which tells us of an enormous crowd of people all worshipping the Lamb; that is, Jesus.

- a) What are they dressed in that shows that they have been put right with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) From which nations had they come? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Do you see how Revelation 7:9 (the **last** book in the Bible) is a vision of the glorious fulfilment of the blessing to **all** nations made so long ago to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 (the **first** book in the Bible)? Isn’t God just wonderful!

## 8. Practical Work

Galatians 3:6-9 teaches us that by faith we are accepted as righteous by God. This doctrine (called in the N.I.V. and in most books on theology “justification by faith”) is basic to Paul’s teaching, especially in Romans and Galatians.

Please take it in turns to read out the verses given below, and in each verse all underline in **green** in your Bible the phrases:

“credited to him as righteousness” in Galatians 3:6.  
“justify” or “justified” in Galatians 3:8, 11, 24.  
“righteousness ... .. would ... have come” in Galatians 3:21.

**Note:** Both the phrases we have just seen come from the same Greek root which is often translated “justified”, “justification”, etc.. That is why this vitally important doctrine is usually called “justification by faith”. Notice how much emphasis Paul puts on this truth that the **blessing** promised to Abraham consisted in the fact that a sinner can actually **be put right with God**.

Let’s go on now to the second question.

**B. How does one receive this blessing?**

(That is, how can one be justified, put right with God?)

9. It is essential that everyone is absolutely clear about the way we can receive this blessing of being put right with God. Let's look again at Galatians 3:6-9.

According to this passage, what did Abraham have to do to be put right with God?

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10. The Greek words for "believe" and "faith" both come from the same Greek root (pistis). Knowing this, we can be quite sure from this passage that we can be put right with God in one way only, and this is by faith.

In which verses do the words "faith", "belief" or "believers" appear in our passage (Gal.3:6-9)? How many times in all?

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**Note:** In the Greek, it only appears 5 times; but this makes no difference to the argument.

11. Like Paul, the Jews would have known about Abraham's faith because it was described in Genesis.

Compare Galatians 3:6-9 with Genesis 15:6 (the story of how God made his promise to Abraham).

Which verse in Gal.3:6-9 is quoting Genesis 15:6?

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12. Abraham was accepted as righteous before God **because of his faith**. Now think back to what we learnt about Abraham's faith in lesson 2B. What were the three main events in Abraham's life which showed his unshakable faith in the Lord? See the pictures in lesson 2B.
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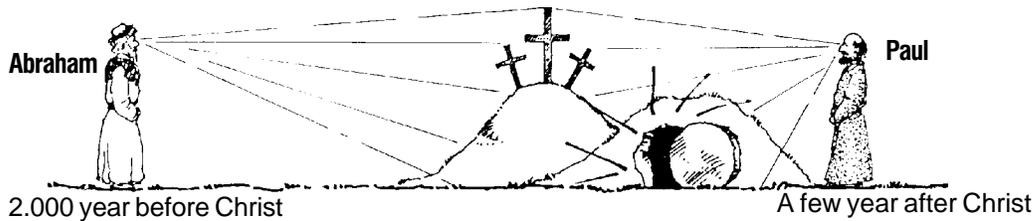
13. Read the thrilling story, in summary form, of Abraham's life of faith, in Hebrews 11:8-19. What sort of faith did Abraham have, as shown by these examples?
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14. Although Paul's faith was basically the same as that of Abraham's, they nevertheless had to look at God's promise from very different viewpoints, because they lived so many years apart. What was this difference in viewpoint, according to the picture?

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15. We are, of course, in the same privileged position as Paul. Read Hebrews 11:39 to 12:2 and then discuss what steps **we** can take, with all our advantages, to put into practice more of the faith that Abraham had.

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16. Let's pray together that the Lord will increase our faith to match that of Abraham, especially in total confidence and commitment to our wonderful Lord.

17. **Control Chart**

Now, please, will everybody check the box in the control chart on page 234, in the following way:

3:6-9

1. Put right with God by faith



18. a) At home, first **Review** this Bible study by doing test 2C.  
b) After this, do Studies 3A & 3B with their Tests (**without** looking back to the Studies themselves).