

ROMANS 4 IS A *MIDRASH*



- Gen. 15:6 Abraham trusted God for righteousness
- Paul has yet to prove his case Scripturally
- Paul's assertion of equality between Jews and gentiles upset the Jews
- James: led Believers in the Holy Land
- Paul: led Believers in the Diaspora

ABRAHAM BELIEVED

GOD

and HE
credited it
to him as

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Genesis 15:6

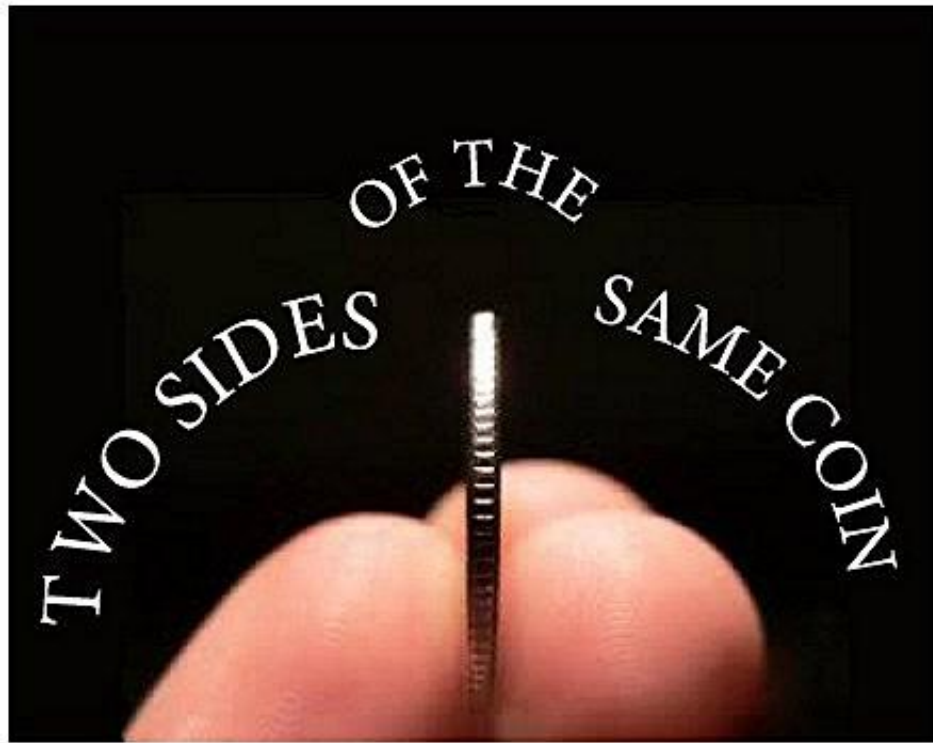
JAMES

FAITH + ACTION



Martin Luther's Doctrines

- James focused more on works
- Luther wanted the Book of James removed
- Luther saw James as contradicting Paul
- James 2:14 – 26
- Paul: Rom.3:24 *“By God’s grace, without earning it, all...considered righteous...”*
- James: Jam. 2:17 *“Faith, by itself, without actions, is dead”*



- James and Paul....trying to achieve a balance between faith and works
- Dealing mostly with semantics and emphasis
- Law and Gospel are an organic unity
- Difficult to pull Law and Gospel apart to examine separately
- Paul says righteousness comes by trust...BUT... doing proper deeds (the Law) still matters Rom. 2:5, 6
- James says that the **PROOF** of your faith (trust) must show up in your deeds Jam. 2:21,22

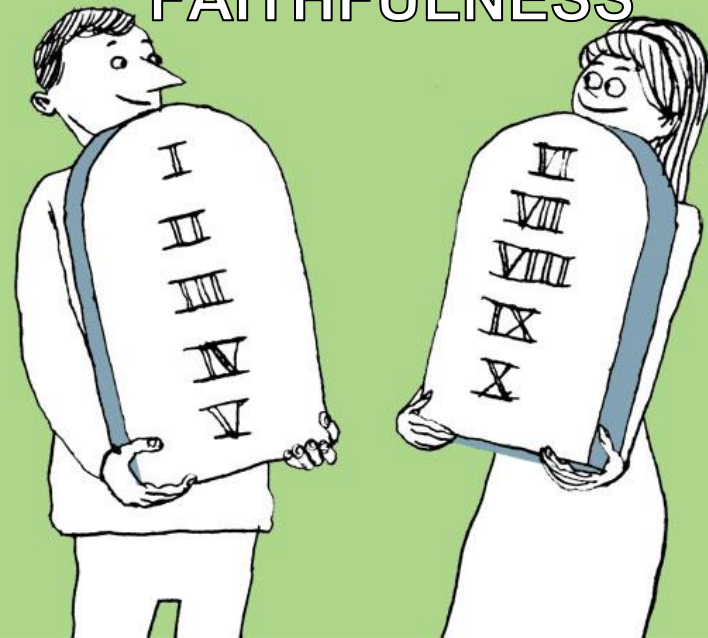
TRUST AND DEEDS

- Sinners do not have to first PROVE their trust before receiving righteousness
- BUT.....after being righteoused, it is expected that deeds will follow
- Paul sees Judaism as having misinterpreted Gen. 15:6
- Faith = mindset, spiritual condition
- Faithfulness = covenant loyalty, actions, deeds

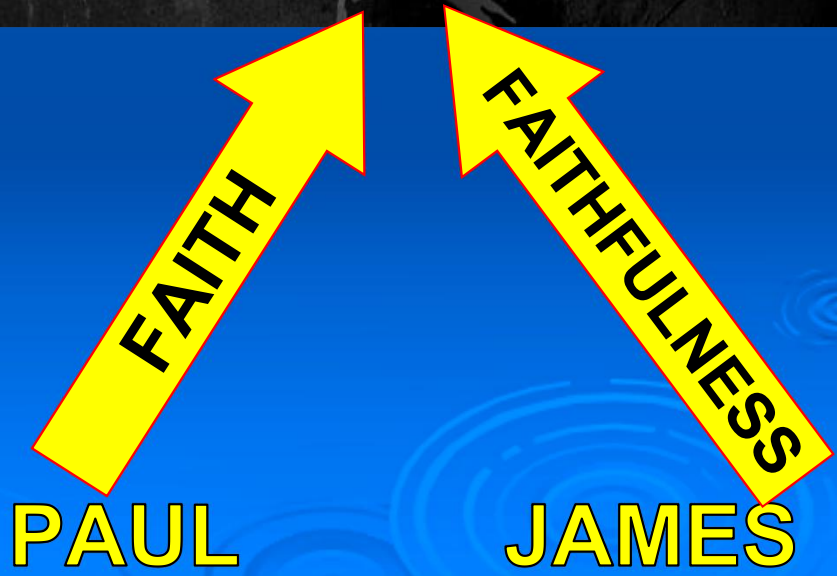
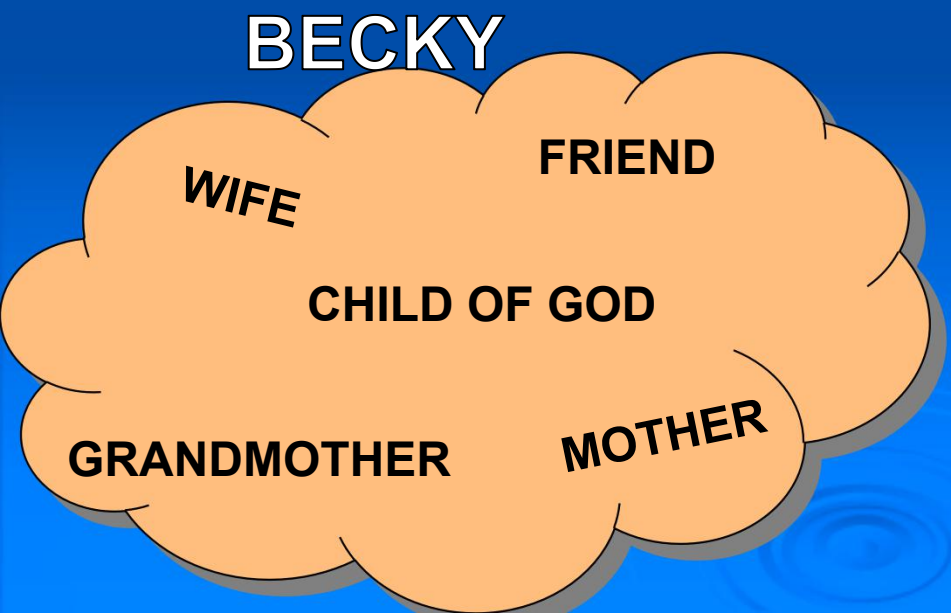
FAITH



FAITHFULNESS



- Faith and faithfulness are to operate as one
- Trust and Law are tightly intertwined
- Like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who are fused together as one, *echad*

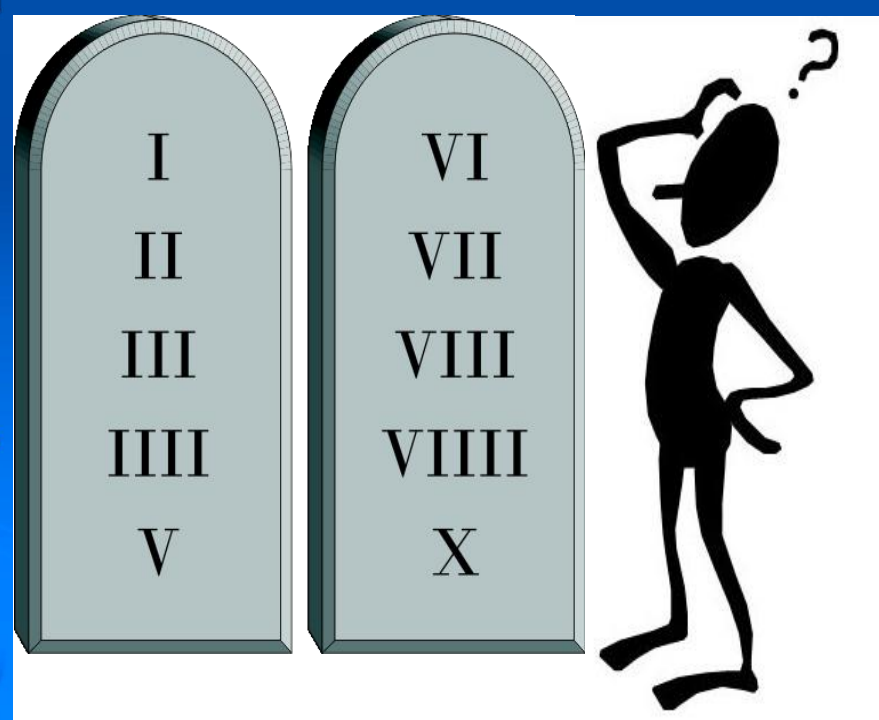


SO WHO IS..... THE SEED OF ABRAHAM?



- Circumcised = Jews
- Uncircumcised = Gentiles
- Judaism saw circumcision more as a “pledge of allegiance” to Israel (Judah)
- Abraham was circumcised as an outward sign of an inner trust in God
- Abraham is the father of the Jews AND he is the (spiritual) father of gentiles who trust in Yeshua
- Abraham would inherit the world by trusting, and not by obeying laws
- **Paul’s Principle**: If obeying laws produces a saving righteousness, then it cannot be that trusting produces a saving righteousness

- Paul says: inheritance promised in the covenant comes through TRUST not through LAW
- Doing the Law is only truly effectual when TRUST is present
- Vs. 15 “For what the Law brings is wrath”
- Connects to the premise that all humans are liable to God’s wrath
- Paul’s principle:
- The Law cannot produce a saving righteousness; only trust can do that
- If we deliberately ignore the Law, does that allow us to avoid sin ?
- Of course NOT!



ARE GENTILES GUILTY OF IDENTITY THEFT?

- Maimonides: *“...whoever adopts Judaism and confesses the unity of the Divine Name....is counted among the disciples of Avraham avinu.....”*
- Maimonides says that a gentile may become a seed of Abraham by conversion to Judaism
- However.....Paul makes it clear that TRUST makes gentiles seed of Abraham without conversion
- AND...Jews who trust Yeshua also do not have to convert

MAIMONIDES



WHY IS ABRAHAM NOT PART OF CHRISTIANITY?

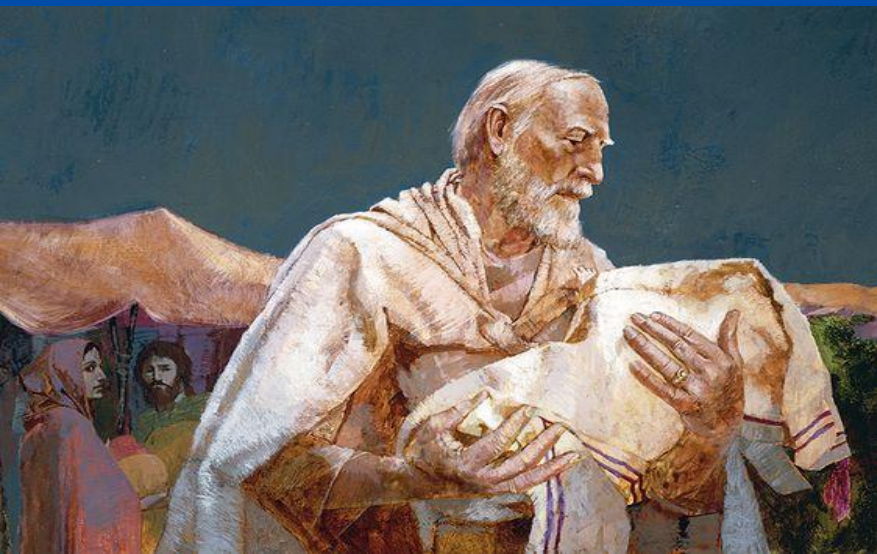
- Abraham seen mostly as belonging to Judaism and to Islam
- Yet in Romans 4 Paul says that gentile Believers ARE (spiritual) seed of Abraham!
- If Yeshua abolished all previous covenants, then the covenant of Abraham blessing all mankind, and making gentiles “seed”, is abolished, too



ABRAHAM: LIFE FROM THE DEAD



- God's primary attributes:
- 1) He gives life from the dead
- 2) He is the Creator of all things
- We can only know God by His name and His attributes
- Abraham almost 100; if he had no sons, his line ended and God's promise died with him
- Abraham's trust was not perfect; he produced a child with Hagar
- But THAT was a miracle, too, because Abraham was too old to produce children
- Later Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the true son of Promise



PAUL COMPARES ABRAHAM TO YESHUA

- God righteousing Abraham by trust was not only for him
- The event was recorded so everyone would know how to gain righteousness
- What do Believers trust in? We are to trust in the one who raised Yeshua from the dead....the Father!
- However, that trust also involves trusting in Yeshua's faithfulness

