SOUND DOCTRINE FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS – Studies in Romans
The Fulfillment of the Promise (Romans 4:23-25)

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Genesis 22:18)

"Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ." (Galatians 3:16)

"And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise." (Galatians 3:29)

Since Paul does not mention our Savior in Romans chapter 4 until the very end (vv24b-25), it is easy to miss the connection he is seeking to establish. He wants us to know that the righteous standing which Abraham received from God by faith is now available to every tribe, tongue, people and nation. How could it not be? Did not an element in the promise which God made to Abraham consist of all the families of the earth being blessed? Would he not also become a father of many nations? Most importantly, his singular seed, Israel's Messiah, would also become the Savior of the world. Notice the critically important interpretation which Paul presents regarding Genesis 22:18, in Galatians 3:16; listed above. Paul not only refers to Abraham's physical and circumcised descendants in Romans four, but also clarifies that anyone who follows in the footsteps of Abraham's faith, becomes one of his spiritual descendants (4:11-13, 16-17; cf. Galatians 3:29; listed above). *So, in the transcendent continuity of God's plan of salvation, the monumental declaration of Genesis 15:6 stands throughout redemptive history, as applicable to anyone and everyone who believes upon Abraham's singular seed, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

In closing chapter four, Paul confirms the connection in v25 – **". . . He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."** Perhaps Paul is referencing Isaiah 53; stating in summary fashion the essence of the final six verses, where the Messiah's death and resurrection are both in view. Romans 4:25 not only serves as confirmation that the redemptive work of Israel's Messiah is predicted in Isaiah 53:7-12, but is also the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. Christ's death was necessary due to man's sin. His resurrection was equally critical in vindicating His sinless life and validating His sin-atoning death. If not for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, the promise of God to Abraham would have remained unfulfilled, with justification unavailable to Abraham or any of us. But it has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ; with the benefit of that redemptive accomplishment being experienced by those who have put their trust in Him.

If you have not yet put your trust in the One and only Savior of our lost and fallen human race; the only One who is capable of forgiving your sin and granting you eternal life, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? It requires a decision of faith, where you willingly admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior, and that the greatest need of your life is to be forgiven of your sin. Only Jesus Christ, God incarnate, God the Son who became God the man, is capable of doing that for you, due to His death on the Cross to pay the penalty of your sin and His resurrection from the dead, so that you can share in His eternal resurrection life. In prayer, put your trust in Jesus right now. Ask Him to forgive you of your sin and to begin turning you into the person He wants you to be.