

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

21 FEBRUARY 2021

Lent Devotion/Day 5/Sunday, February 21, 2021

Romans 4:1-5; 13-17:

- 1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?
- 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God.
- 3 What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”
- 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.
- 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.
- 13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.
- 14 For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless,
- 15 because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.
- 16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.
- 17 As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Meditation: Christian faith also makes astonishing claims: that God loves the world without exception; that God sends God’s beloved Son to save it; that God raises this Son from the dead. These promises are made in a world where much seems untrustworthy – from political leaders that fail to keep their word to TV commercials that we assume to be false. Amid these empty slogans is the promise of God’s Son given for the world, a promise renewed every year at Lent. To “have” faith is more than believing a few statements about Jesus Christ; it is to trust in the living God who sent him and to act out of that trust.

Prayer: *Holy and Loving God, teach us to live not out of fear, but out of trust. You have given your Son to the world. And that is the source of trust that will cast out any fear. Amen.*

-excerpt from Dr. David Hadley Jensen, Professor in the Clarence N. and Betty B. Frierson Distinguished Chair of Reformed Theology and Associate Dean for Academic Programs. **Lent: Reflection, repentance, and renewal.** Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.