



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 26, 2024

The Lord be with you.

You and I are in those wondrous days that Christians have long called Holy Week. I know you're not gonna find this week on school calendars or business calendars as they set aside time for what they like to call spring break. And even as Christians, we often skip Holy Week. We race right from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday and we miss the glory, we miss the wonder, we miss the awesome holiness of these days that forever changed the world that forever changed our lives and change our destinies.

So I do not want to let these days slip by without stopping to ponder without stopping to reflect on the meaning of our Lord's passion, his suffering, his death and resurrection. So today, I want to pause to look at what the Apostle Paul says in the book of Romans chapter four, as Paul is pointing us to Abraham, he's pointing us to Abraham to show how you and I are put right with God. Paul shows us in Romans four that Abraham was put right with God, not by works of the law, not by his good works, but Abraham was put right with God, by faith, by faith, and God by faith and God's promise.

So that Polish showing that is how you and I are put right with God by faith in God and what He promises us in the gospel. So then Paul takes us from Abraham. He takes us down to the end of Romans chapter four, verse 22 where Paul says I read. Therefore, therefore, that's the conclusion. Therefore, Abraham's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Now, the words, it was reckoned to him were not written for Abraham's sake alone, but are for hours. Also, it will be reckoned to us who believe in him, who raise Jesus, our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Now, it says the last part of verse 25 that I want to focus on, as Paul says, Jesus was handed over to death for our trespasses and raise for our justification. And that is a very good statement of the gospel. That is a very good statement of what these days of Holy Week are about. That Jesus was handed over to death for our trespasses and he was raised for our justification for our being put right with God that tells us the meaning of Good Friday, that tells us the meaning of Easter Sunday. That on Good Friday, Jesus was handed over for our sins and come Easter Sunday, Jesus was raised from the dead, for our justification.

Now, it is important for our understanding of this verse and for our understanding of the Good Friday in Easter. It is important for us to be sure about the meaning of one little word in this verse. And that is the word for, for four, that Jesus was handed over for our trespasses and he was raised for our justification for our being put right with God.

Now, the Greek word translated for is the word Dia, that's dia and the Greek word Dia can be translated for a as it is in this Bible version. But it can also be translated and is often translated as because of or on account of, some of us can remember a time when the FBI used to publish their



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most wanted list, criminals that were the most wanted and the list would say something like something like John Doe wanted for armed robbery. Ok?

Obviously, the FBI was not, was not advertising for, for someone to do armed robbery, but whether they were advertising because of on account of armed robbery, this person is wanted for armed robbery, ok? That, that gives us an idea of the meaning of the word for here, the the meaning of the Greek word dear that Jesus was handed over to death for because of on account of our trespasses and Jesus was raised for because of on account of our justification, our having been put right with God by the cross of Jesus Christ.

So do you follow what scripture is saying here? It's saying that the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, the empty tomb. It's God's proof of our justification of our having been put right with God. Jesus resurrection. I mean, it's God's validation. God's endorsement. God's acceptance of all that Jesus did for you and me on Good Friday, Jesus resurrection. 5It's God's loud. Amen to Jesus words on the cross. It is finished, Jesus saving work of you and me. It was finished, completed, accomplished, achieved.

And Easter Sunday, it is God's assurance that you need never be in any doubt about God forgiving you your sins, all of your sins think of it like this, that if Jesus did not take away, but one of your sins, Jesus would still be in the grave as Easter Sunday is proof of what Jesus did for us on Good Friday that Jesus has put us right with God. The empty tomb proves that here is how the Apostle Paul puts it in the book of second Corinthians chapter five verse 19. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

And so here this holy week, I like the words of the old hymn as we praise God Christ. We do all adore thee and we do praise thee forever, Christ, we adore thee and we do praise thee forever for on the Holy cross. Hast thou the world from sin, redeemed Christ. We do all of Dorothy.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.