

Title: Party Time - Romans 4 10-15

Read:

10-11 Now think: Was that declaration made before or after he was marked by the covenant rite of circumcision? That's right, before he was marked. That means that he underwent circumcision as evidence and confirmation of what God had done long before to bring him into this acceptable standing with himself, an act of God he had embraced with his whole life. 12 And it means further that Abraham is father of all people who embrace what God does for them while they are still on the "outs" with God, as yet unidentified as God's, in an "uncircumcised" condition. It is precisely these people in this condition who are called "set right by God and with God"! Abraham is also, of course, father of those who have undergone the religious rite of circumcision not just because of the ritual but because they were willing to live in the risky faith-embrace of God's action for them, the way Abraham lived long before he was marked by circumcision. 13-15 That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad contract! That's not a holy promise; that's a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a promise—and God's promise at that—you can't break it.

Think:

Excellent we are all off to Heaven. Fantastic we say thank you to Jesus and off we go and do what we want. It's true isn't it? We don't get into Heaven because of what we do; we get into Heaven because of what Jesus did. Therefore we can now go and do what we want and we will still get into Heaven. We can go and hang around the park and drink cheap beer, even though we are too young and still get into Heaven. We can push our family around, be horrible to the guy at school, but because we asked Jesus to be our saviour we still go to Heaven. Well I guess that's true, but asking Jesus to be your saviour can't end with the prayer. There has to be some evidenced in your life that you have chosen to become a Christian. Jesus said to us that we are to go and introduce our friends to him. Jesus said that we should be salt on this earth by which he meant that our mates should see good stuff coming out of us. He might have said "make your actions taste as good as a coke to your mates, as you show them in what you do for them." We don't do what we do for Jesus to get into Heaven; we do what we do for Jesus because we are thankful that we have got into Heaven.

Pray:

Father thank you for accepting me, please help me be a great example for my mates here on Earth. Amen.

Action:

What actions of yours recently have tasted like a nice cool coke? Think about this tomorrow as you go to school or college. Cheerio.