

## **PAX ROMANA**

*Pastor Ray Swash*

### *Determining God's Signs!*

#### **Romans 4.9-17**

##### **Human Nature: PRIDE**

*Find a way to accredit 'some' good within our "restored" relationship with God.*

##### **Divine Nature: GRACE**

*Accept 'anything' good as a gift in our restored relationship with God.*

*Abraham's righteousness was accredited to him 14 years before any sign (circumcision) was fulfilled and over 400 years before the law*

*This is what I mean: God had an agreement with Abraham and promised to keep it. The law, which came four hundred thirty years later, cannot change that agreement and so destroy God's promise to Abraham.*

**Galatians 3.17 (NCV)**

*God never gave the Law (Mosaic—Levitical) in order that we might be saved by it. The business of the Law was to bring out the character of sin, that it might show 'the exceeding sinfulness of sin'.*

**Martyn Lloyd Jones**

##### **A) a Sign—SEALED by God**

*And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised ...*

**Romans 4.11 (NIV)**

##### **B) an Example—CONFIRMED by God**

*... who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

**Romans 4.12 (NIV)**

##### **C) the Standard—AFFIRMED before the Law**

*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.*

**Romans 4.13 (NIV)**

#### **Bringing the Old into the New:**

##### **Circumcision vs. Baptism**

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love*

**Galatians 5.6 (NKJV)**

##### **A) Baptism is a Sign—not a COVENANT**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

**Matthew 28.19-20 (NIV)**

##### **B) Baptism is an Example—Declaring Christ's LORDSHIP**

*By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. .*

**Romans 6.4 (GNT)**

##### **C) Baptism set the Standard—AFFIRMED by the Spirit**

*And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

**Matthew 3.16-17 (ESV)**