

**Series: God & Abraham #1296**

**Title: Genesis 15.6**

***Abram's and Our Salvation***

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. It is good to have you with us, and I hope you will be right here all this week. *God Is* can be heard at this time on this station and also via the free *God Is Podcast* available from [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org), that is [godisministry.o-r-g](http://godisministry.o-r-g). I hope if you have not yet visited the website that you will do so, and tell others about our verse-by-verse study in Genesis chapter 15 and now other texts associated with that one key verse: Genesis 15, verse 6!

What is great about the podcast is new listeners can quickly catch up by downloading a bunch of podcasts and listening to them one after the other. Someone wrote to say she had recently found *God Is* and went back to the beginning of the chapter, listening to each episode that has brought her up to the present. That was a reminder to me to encourage you to do the same, and to share the link to the website with others you know who are hungry for the Word of God. Pass the word along: [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org).

There are people in your family, in your circle of friends, and certainly in your church who desire more teaching from the Bible than they are currently getting. Thirty minutes on Sunday, no matter how strong and beneficial the preaching and teaching is, thirty minutes once a week just will not cut it for people who are yearning for a more intimate relationship with God – a relationship that is built on the firm foundation of this ancient and reliable text: the Bible. Through the Bible, God speaks and so for anyone wanting to hear from God, the Scripture is *required* reading.

I hope you will join me in prayer as we dedicate this week to the Lord. Our Father, in heaven, holy is Your name. We pray that Your Kingdom will come and Your will be done right here on earth as Your will is done there in heaven. Please give us today our daily bread. Meet our every need. And forgive us our sins. Forgive us our debts. Forgive us our trespasses. Forgive us, and give us the grace and the strength and the willingness to forgive those who have sinned against us. Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Make us attentive to the Scripture before us this week. Help us to learn what You teach us. Guard us from getting distracted, from becoming too much a part of this world. Give us an insatiable appetite for Your truth. We believe in You. We trust You. And we love You. We love you, Lord. We look forward, with eager anticipation, to the moment when Christ will come for us. The King is coming. We believe this. Until that day, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit who seals us in You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Saturday and Sunday has passed since we last met together. I think it will be valuable if I summarize what we learned last week. You may remember we are on this excursion to the New Testament to learn about the imputation of Adam's sin to all people. Adam, the first man sinned, and when he sinned God imputed, or God credited his sin to every person who has ever lived since Adam. And this includes Abraham. Abraham was a sinner. And we are all sinners.

Imputation is an accounting term, applied to theology, which simply means to credit to one's account; to apply to one's account. From Romans chapter 5 and verse 12 we learned that God credits, God applies the guilt of Adam's sin to the account of every person who follows Adam. Using other Scripture we saw that Adam is the father of all humankind. And that Adam is our representative. He is our federal head. He is like an ambassador for us. That is how God sees him. So that when Adam sinned, we all sinned. He represented us when he sinned. The sports analogy I used was this: when one member of the team is off sides, the whole team gets penalized. Adam did not act alone. When he acted, we acted. His action negatively affected us all.

We will also visit Romans chapter 5, verses 18-19 to support the imputation of Adam's sin to our accounts. This is such bad news for us. In fact, it is so bad that we do not hear the imputation of Adam's sin talked about much. We live in a culture that wants from God what is positive, not what is negative. But the reality is we are naturally born sinners, every one of us. This message is not popular, but it is *true*.

And here on *God Is* we deal with truth, whether we like or not! And I remind you that we are in Genesis chapter 15 where we have met this man Abram (his name not yet changed to Abraham). And in this sixth verse of chapter 15 – which I referenced earlier – we read this stunning statement: **“Then [Abram] believed in the Lord; and [the Lord] reckoned it to [Abram] as righteousness.”** This verse requires careful examination and that is what we are going to give it. And the first step in understanding the connection between believing in the Lord and the Lord reckoning or crediting that belief as righteousness, that is justification before God *by faith*, the first step in understanding this is to know what imputation is.

And, as we will learn beginning tomorrow, there are two sides to imputation. Thus far we have the negative side. If you stay tuned, you will hear all about the positive side. As God credited to us Adam’s sin, likewise, God will credit to us Christ’s righteousness – as He did with Abraham – *if* we will believe in Jesus Christ. But, as I just said, more on this beginning next time.

What I want to now say will prepare you for what is coming up here on *God Is*. Imputation is the first step in understanding how we are justified before the Living God when we are so clearly sinners and God is so clearly and perfectly holy. There is a great gap between God and us, and imputation explains why that gap is *and* how to bridge it. But imputation is not the only factor, or not the only way to explain *how* we are made right with the Righteous God. There is something else that we must seriously consider and I want to commit us to explain this doctrine of salvation, this teaching of justification by faith, by walking you through what theologians call the order of salvation. The Latin term being *Ordo Salutis*. *Ordo Salutis* means the order of salvation.

That is, God Himself reveals to us in the Bible that there is an order to our salvation from sin. We will explore this. *And*, so that you can better understand this – especially if you are a visual learner – I have a simple resource I want to get into your hands, or at least on your screen. That’s why I am bringing this up today, even before we finish our discussion on imputation. If you would like to better understand what we will be talking about – I think beginning next Monday (one week from today) – write to me now and ask for “the order of salvation.”

Now, you might think, “How am I going to remember all that?” OK, I will make it even more simple. Send your email or your note to my Post Office Box with one simple word “Salvation.” If you will do that, then I will email or send you this simple one-page document that highlights nine stages that are a part of *how* God redeems us from our sin. All nine are biblical and I will be pointing each one out in the Bible, but if you pair what I will send you (the visual) with what I will say (the audio), I believe you will understand this better.

So write to me with that one word “salvation” and send your email to [mark@godisministry.org](mailto:mark@godisministry.org). Email is the fastest and the easiest way to do this. So I strongly encourage you to use email, [mark@godisministry.org](mailto:mark@godisministry.org). But for those of you who do not use email or who cannot, send your note to God Is, PO Box 802, Winchester Massachusetts 01890. And these addresses are repeated as I soon sign off, so stay engaged to write them down. And then write to me and simply ask “salvation.”

Well, that’s a sneak preview. And, taking care of some logistics. As long as the Lord Jesus graciously waits for everyone whom He has ordained to be saved from sin before He returns, and as long as I live, we will take each day to delve into the Bible and learn from the text what God teaches us. And right now the Spirit of God wants to teach us about our salvation. Genesis 15, verse 6 and what *God* did in Abram’s life has direct bearing on your life and mine. So, come along with us, and find out how.

Before we get to the order of salvation, we need to finish by highlighting the positive side to imputation and we will do that for the remainder of this week. Are you excited? Are you ready? Do not miss the *positive* side of imputation – really, do not miss this! We get to it, Lord willing, tomorrow here, as we continue to discover who God Is.

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