

Against all hope – Romans 4:18-25
James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 24 May 2009

Introduction

- Complete the quotation from Herodotus: “A man always believes...”
- Nevertheless, how does the Bible call Christians to live?
- Which hero of the Old Testament has Paul been pointing to since the start of Romans 4?

i What is faith?

v18-21 help us to see that faith in the Lord is reasonable, sensible, and level-headed.

- Which verse gives a good description of what faith is?
- What is faith, according to that verse?
- What had God promised to Abraham?
- What two things did Abraham’s faith rest upon?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
- What does the reasonableness and sensibleness and level-headedness of faith depend upon?
- Was, then, Abraham wise to trust the Lord?
- Why do we not need to be ashamed of our faith?

ii What faith does

- What is the first thing which faith does in (v18-19)?
- How does Abraham view the fact that his body was as good as dead and that Sarah’s womb was completely dead?
- What does his faith enable him to do?
- Note two situations where we might have to do the same as Abraham:
 - (i)
 - (ii)

- What is the second thing which faith does in (v20-21)?
- What does **Genesis 17:15-18** show about Abraham?
- How can you square this with what Paul says in v20-21?
- Why is this encouraging to Christians who struggle with doubts?
- What is the third thing which faith does (in v20-21)?
- In what way is this the case?
- What is the chief end of man?
- What, then, is one simple way in which we can fulfil our chief end?

iii What does it mean to us?

v22-25 *wrap things up and bring this section to a conclusion.*

- **v25** mentions the resurrection. Why is the resurrection so significant?
- What is the last question which the passage leaves you with?

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