

'by grace, through faith,' and rests upon the basis of the shed blood of Christ."

However, here we strike another problem. If saving faith is defined as "trust in Christ and His redemptive work as revealed in the gospel," then did Abraham know about and trust in Christ and His redemptive work? That is, what we are asking concerns the content of Abraham's faith: did he believe implicitly in God and the salvation which He would somehow provide, or did Abraham believe explicitly in Christ and the salvation He would accomplish?

I believe at least a partial answer to this question lies in the relationship between the content of Old Testament saving revelation and the content of Old Testament saving faith.

Two diagrams may help to make this clear. The first concerns the unfolding of the content of Old Testament saving revelation; the second concerns development in the content of Old Testament saving faith.

I believe that the development from implicit to explicit content of Old Testament saving faith runs essentially parallel to the unfolding from implicit to explicit content of Old Testament saving revelation. I believe that, as the mix of implicit and explicit elements in the content of Old Testament saving revelation became more explicit and less implicit, Israelites were responsible to believe and trust in as much about Christ and His salvation as had been revealed to that point in time.

- C. The third segment of this second section (5:1-11) details some of the blessings that accompany justification by faith.

We will simply look at them in passing, although each one is worthy of extended exposition.

Verse 1 mentions peace with God.

Verse 2 speaks of our rejoicing in the confident expectation ("hope" in the New Testament terminology) of the future manifestation of God's glory in our lives.

Verses 3-4 mention our rejoicing in sufferings, not as sadomasochists, who derive pleasure from the infliction of physical or mental pain, either on others or on themselves, but as those who discern how God uses suffering to produce various qualities of Christian character in the life of one who lives by faith.

Verse 5 speaks of the Holy Spirit, who indwells us and who has poured out God's love into our hearts.

Verses 6-8 recall God's great love demonstrated by Christ's death for us while we were ungodly, unrighteous; undeserving sinners.

Verse 9 speaks of salvation from God's wrath through Christ, both in the present and in the day of His wrath.

Verse 10 tells us of present and future salvation through the resurrected, living Christ.