

THE FATHER OF FAITH

Romans 4:9-22



Historical Context

Judaism

Sicarii &
Zealots

Matt 27:16-17 (NIV)

Acts 4:6 (Alexander)

Jesus Bar-Abbas
Eleazar Ben-Ananias

Pharisees

50BC – 30AD

110BC – 10AD

Rabbi Shammai
(Extreme Orthodox)

Rabbi Hillel
(Grandfather of Rabbi
Gamaliel)

Sadducees

Essenes

John the Baptist

The Way

Acts 24:10-22

Acts 11:19-26

The Apostles &
Christians (Hellenized
Converts)

Rabbi Hillel

(Grandfather of Rabbi Gamaliel)

Disciples of Shammai

(Extreme Orthodox)

Eleazar Ben-Ananias

- Captain of the Temple, Leader of the Zealots, Son of High Priest Annas / Ananias and friend of Jesus Bar-Abbas

The Apostles & Christians

- Cannot interact with Gentiles
- **No salvation for Gentiles unless they are circumcised and become proselytes of Shammai's Law**
- Paul (Disciple of Gamaliel and a Roman Citizen) joined the Disciples of Shammai and the Zealots for a season due to his struggle with his own identity.
- **Later he became a follower of Christ and the Way putting him in their hit list as a chief traitor. They even followed him to assassinate him!**
- He calls them the 'Circumcision Party' and Judaizers (Acts 15:1-2)

Textual Context (Rom 1:1-7)

Paul a servant of Jesus Christ

Who he is

called to be an apostle

Who he is called to be

set apart for the gospel of God

What he is called to do

..... **GOSPEL LINK**

To all God's beloved in Rome

Who they are

who are called to be saints

Who they are called to be

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

What is given to them that they may act as Christ

The Different Laws in Romans

1. **The Law of Sin and Death – Empowered by the Flesh**
2. **The Law of God (Torah) – Empowered by God's Spirit**
3. **The Law of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Mark 7:1-9; Matt 15:1-14 the leaven Jesus warned about and specifically addressing the wrong teachings and traditions of Rabbi Shammai). Since the translations don't specify this we confuse it with God's Law (Torah) and end up with another set of wrong teachings. Always check the context.**

Illustration of the Truth



**Abraham bearing
the mark of
circumcision**



Wrong Teaching: Natural
descendants of Abraham,
bearing the mark of
circumcision, Sole heirs of
salvation and all the promises
God made to Abraham.

**Gentiles have no value. If they
want to belong – they must be
circumcised and must take the
yoke of Shammi's harsh
teachings to prove themselves.**



**Paul expounding
on the Way of
the Messiah:**

**Jew & Gentile
are like a lump
of clay with filth
in it and on it. It
will take an act
of God to
change them to
diamonds. God
acts in response
to faith which
pleases Him.**



Illustration of the Truth (Rom 4:9-15)



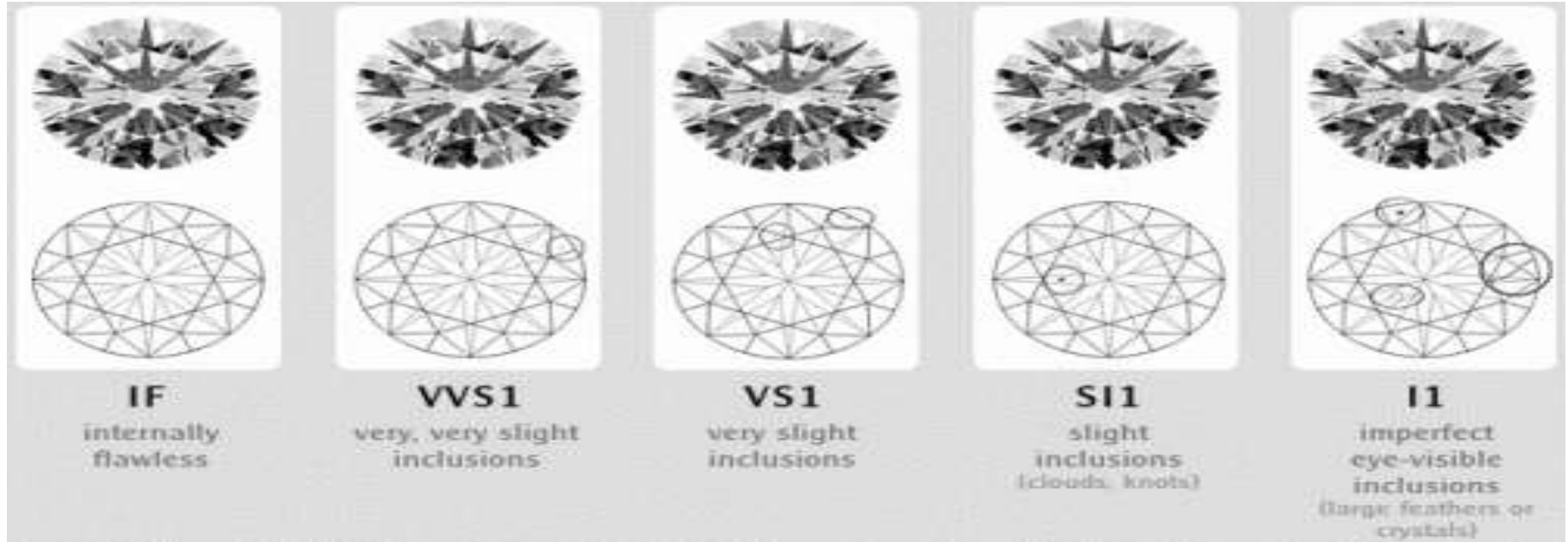
Paul expounding on the Way of the Messiah:

It was the quality of faith in Abraham that God approved and ‘marked’ with the seal of circumcision. So it was faith and its promised reward of nations and children that came first. Gen 15:6 vs Gen 17.

No one gets specially rewarded for keeping the Law – it is the requirement for order and peace and there are benefits to obeying Laws.

Promises depend on faith in another (Vs. 15)

Illustration of the Truth (Rom 4:16-22)



Paul expounding on the Way of the Messiah:

Even after circumcision, Abraham continued in faith believing God's promise that He is the father of many nations and not just Israel or the Tribe of Judah from whom the Jews are descended.

The shared DNA of Abraham's children is FAITH. The Holy Spirit is the Master Craftsman Who will present us flawless!

Life Application

- 1. Visiting and New to Christianity – You are a diamond in God’s eye even if you don’t see it yet. The Christians beside you are diamonds too – but be warned they have their flaws and that is why they are here, to learn to overcome the flaws.**
- 2. Christians:**
 - a. Don’t disregard another’s worth.**
 - b. Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees ie Doctrines and traditions of men. It is never equivalent to God’s Truth. Examine – don’t be quick to dismiss or stone!**
 - c. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit to be presented a flawless Bride – The Holy Spirit will not fail.**