

## MESSAGE # 3: ABRAHAM

Biblical passages: Genesis 18

### I. Introduction to the Subject:

Abraham had more incidents in which the Lord communicated with him in a theophanic manner than any other Old Testament character except Moses. He had more than his share among the patriarchs and they are all interesting and instructive in helping us to learn more about the matter of trusting God. It is not that we do not trust---it is more a matter that we often allow things to inhibit our trust and to deny us the joy of knowing how capable God is in meeting every situation. So each of the meetings with Abraham was a lesson in the character and dependability of God and just as in chapter 17 he learned of God's intention to keep His promises, so in chapter 18 he learns to trust God's mercy and justice. We live in a world where justice is often and easily perverted. But with God that is not so, He is thoroughly dependable and competent. Trusting His mercy and justice enables us to live with the concept that the "Judge of all the earth will do right." (18:25)

II. Discussion: In the account, the Divine presence comes to Abraham's dwelling when three men approach and receive his hospitality. It is one of those scenes about which we wish we knew more but Sarah prepares a very suitable meal for them. (That he knew they were special is witnessed in vs. 2 when suddenly on the plain he looked up and three men were standing there.) They remind him again of the truth of the covenant and the promise of a son to come and then they leave in the direction of Sodom, Abraham himself going with them. The Lord reveals to Abraham that He is going to bring judgment on this wicked place and Abraham, knowing that his nephew, Lot, lives there is filled with concern. The famous bargaining scene takes place in which Abraham asks how many righteous people would be needed for the city to be spared and they work the number down to ten and Abraham is satisfied and the men go on their way and in the next chapter we learn there were not enough people to save the city but the Lord delivered from the city those who were right before Him. In learning to know God better and trust Him more we observe three things:

A. He is understanding of our weakness