

**"SOLA FIDE"**

(Romans 3:21-4:4)

Series: The Five Solas of the Reformation (Part 2)

...Before GPS getting directions to your destination was not always reliable and often confusing. Getting directions to heaven can often be even more confusing because there are so many different opinions.  
...Paul told in Romans 3:19-20 that our standing before God is hopeless from birth, for we were born sinners and lost deserving God's wrath. Our situation is desperate. Eternity is a long time. What is the true path to heaven?  
...Last Sunday we examined the first of the 5 Latin phrases that emerged from the Reformation summarizing the essentials of the Gospel. Last week, "Sola Scriptura," meant that our only authority is the Bible. Today, "Sola Fide." This is often called "The material cause or principle of the Reformation" because it was the central doctrinal issue for Martin Luther. He early on pondered how a sinful man could be made right with a holy God.

**THREE QUESTIONS HELPING US TO GRASP WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE.**

...For this is the only road to heaven.

**I. What Does It Mean To Have Faith? (3:22,25-28,30,31)**

- A. In our day, the word faith has several meanings.
  - 1. It can be used as little more than mere opinion.
  - 2. It can be used to express assumptions, presuppositions assumed to be true by faith.
  - 3. It is used in the Bible to express the child-like trust one has in believing upon Jesus.
- B. The word "Faith," is far more than a "Leap into the dark," rather it is a confident resting in God.
  - 1. Biblical faith has as its foundation both the veracity and faithfulness of God, as expressed in the Word Of God. It is both truthful and dependable.
  - 2. It is far more than an intellectual knowing, for it presupposes a personal relationship to the object of confidence, a going out of one's self, to rest in another. Trust!

**II. What Is Saving Faith? (Romans 3:22,25,26,28) (4:1-4) (James 2:14-17)**

- A. James told of a kind of faith that does not save. "A workless faith is a worthless faith..." (2)  
...It is an empty profession of faith. Good works are the evidence of genuine faith, yet they never produce salvation, never! But they do reveal that regeneration has taken place in a life.
- B. Saving faith is the child-like confidence that one has as he/she places their trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Jesus died as the perfect sin offering substitute.
  - 1. The faith told of here is a gift given by the Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion. "Faith...is a gift of God..." (Eph. 2:8-9) (The fruit of new birth is faith and repentance)
  - 2. God's call for salvation always results in the saving of a person. (Romans 8:30)
  - 3. Faith is not the reason we are saved, but only the empty channel by which grace comes.
- C. Saving faith involves three elements:
  - 1. You must know the basic teaching of the Gospel. (intellect)
  - 2. You must embrace those as true and certain. (emotions)
  - 3. You must act upon these and actively place your trust upon the Lord. (will)  
...Like the men lost at sea in a sinking ship...only some were saved.

**III. What Does It Mean To Be Justified By Faith Alone? "Sola Fide" (3:21-25)**

- A. To be justified means to be brought into a right relationship with God. This is impossible for us to do this on our own. We are lost, and even more, spiritually dead due to sin.

- B. Justification is the act of being declared JUST by God. It is only received through the channel of faith, and is based upon the imputed (given) righteousness of Jesus. It is a single act, and not a process. It is the act of the Judge (God) who declares a man right before the Law. ...Jesus' righteousness is given to the believer. It is placed into the "Account" of the believer.
1. Good deeds will never save anyone, but give evidence of genuine salvation.
  2. There is no such thing as progressive justification. No! It is a declaration.
- C. For clarity sake, note the distinctions between justification and sanctification:
1. Don't confuse justification with sanctification...one is an act, one is a life-long process.
  2. Justification does not affect your condition, just your standing before God.
  3. Justification takes place once for all, it is never repeated. (Our security & safety)
  4. Justification takes place outside the believer, while sanctification takes place within...
  5. Justification removes the guilt of our sin, while sanctification removes the pollution...

### **SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?**

1. Remember, every person is a person of faith...it is the object of faith that is different. The unsaved person puts his or her faith in someone or something other than God. Don't let the non-Christian who attempts to minimize you by saying..."You are a person of faith, but he is a person of reason." No way! He or she assumes certain things to be true and they do so by faith.
2. Saving faith comes from God and causes us to have a child-like confidence in His promises. God said it, and that settles it. It is beautifully simple and straight forward and the result produces a deep confidence in us...that we are now "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."
3. Remember, God does not need your good works, your neighbors do!!! At salvation, God gives us new hearts, hearts that yearn to help others. When we do so, our good deeds reveal the genuineness of our salvation. They are true faith indicators.
4. Today you are invited to come to Jesus and receive Him as your Savior and Lord. He alone is "The way, the truth, and the life."