

## **Sola Fide: Justification is by Faith Alone**

### Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation (1517-2017)

**Text:** Romans 1:17, 3:21-31, James 2

**Main Idea:** Faith in Christ *alone* is the instrument by which sinners are justified, apart from works so that God gets all the glory!

**Justification:** An instantaneous legal act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us & (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight. (Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg 723)

***Martin Luther** – "Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise."*

1. **Sola fide** means that justification is \_\_\_\_\_ through faith in Christ alone! (v. 19-24a)
  - Every person is \_\_\_\_\_ before God and therefore works cannot help reconcile us. (Rom 3:19-21a)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ confirms that no one is justified by good works but through faith! (v. 21b)
  - Faith alone is the \_\_\_\_\_ by which sinners are justified! (v. 22-23, 28, 1:17, 4:4-5, Gal 2:16)
  - Justification is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God by His grace & eliminates all boasting! (v. 24a, 27-28)
  
2. **Sola fide** means that the righteousness of Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ through faith alone! (v. 24b-26)
  - God provides a "foreign" perfect righteousness, which comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. (24b-25)
  - God considers us "not guilty" and \_\_\_\_\_ us righteous. (v. 26, Rom 4:4-5)
  
3. **Sola fide** means that while we are justified by faith alone, our faith is never alone but *inevitably* produces \_\_\_\_\_. (James 2:14-26, Eph 2:10)

**Homework:** Check out all the overwhelming passages in Scripture that teach salvation by faith and NOT by works:

Romans 3:28 – “For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

Gal 2:16 – “Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

Romans 4:4-5 – “Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.”

Phil 3:9 – “And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

Titus 3:5 – “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy...”

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that non one many boast.”

Romans 9:30-32 – “What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone.”

Romans 5:1 – Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Others: John 3:16, Romans 4:13-25, 5:9, 10:4, 10:9-10, 11:6, Gal 3:5-6, Eph 1:13, 1 Tim 1:16