

Hebrews - 2/7/21

Justification by Faith Alone

TEXT- Heb 11:17 *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Heb 11:8-9* *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9* *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

Heb. 11:11 *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*

Heb. 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

INTRO- I believe the Bible clearly teaching that we are saved by grace through faith. Eph. 2:8-10 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9* *Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10* *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Tit 3:5-7 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6* *Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7* *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Rom 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

I. The Definition of Justification

Denotes the act of declaring one righteous, it is an acquittal"; signifying the establishment of a person as just by acquittal from guilt.

Acquittal - a judgment that a person is not guilty of the crime with which the person has been charged: "the trial resulted in an **acquittal**"

Synonyms - absolution, exoneration or declaration of innocence

We equate justification with the new birth and the word salvation. No one is ever saved without justification.

Justification is not the same as sanctification, regeneration or repentance Each has its own viewpoint.

Rom 3:22-25 *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23* *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24* *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25* *Whom God hath*

set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

II. The Discrepancy of Justification

- **Man's inclination is to make himself better through human effort of the flesh – Ishmael (After the flesh)**
- **God's plan is to regenerate through the work of the Spirit – Isaac**

James does not teach salvation through works. If he did it brings about several problems:

1. **What works must be done?**
2. **To what degree and to what length of time?**
3. **If some work is necessary what if those works are discontinued – does mean the person is lost?**
4. **If Abraham was justified by works was it the work of offering his son Isaac?**
5. **Was he not saved prior to this when he left UR of Chaldees or when he sojourned in the lad or when he believed in the birth if Isaac?**

James discusses the evidence of faith not justification from sin.

Man is justified before men when they see your works.

True faith will be seen by actions.

Jas 2:17-24 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18* *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19* *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20* *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21* *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22* *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23* *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24* *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

Rom 4:1-3 *What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2* *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3* *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

Rom 4:6 *Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,*

III. The Details of Justification

- **Repentance rather than good good works**

Luke 18:11-14 *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

- **Faith brings about justification**

Gal 3:6 *Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*

- **Justification brings about forgiveness**

Rom 4:7-16 *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. 9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: 12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. 13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: 15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all*

CONCL – Any idea that religious act, rite or personal sacrifice can bring about salvation denies the fact of man’s utter depravity.

Rom 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*