

INTRODUCTION

1. Prayer
2. Please take your Bible and turn with me to Romans chapter 3.
3. We are looking at verses 21-31 as we look once again at 5 Solas of the Reformation.
4. Read Romans 3:21-31
5. Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Sola Christus, Soli Deo Gloria.
6. These are the 5 sola's that were born out of the 16th century Protestant

Reformation.

7. When I say they were born out of, what I mean is, protestors of the Catholic church and her teaching, birthed a return to the Word of God.
8. Prior the Word of God was locked up in Latin.
9. In 1517, Erasmus translated his Greek NT and Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church doors, these two events brought about a protest of the church's teaching.
10. One put the language of the Bible in the language of the people.

11. For the first time they could read the Bible in their own language.
12. Only a few could read Latin and as long as the Bible was in Latin, the Church could get away with teaching anything they wanted without any accountability.
13. But now the people could read and understand what the Bible said.
14. Sola Scriptura says, “The Bible alone is the Word of God.”
15. This means that the written text that we know as the Bible is synonymous with the very words of God.

16. To be the Word of God, the Bible must originate from God.
17. As the apostle Peter writes, “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things.
18. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21).
19. So, to say that the Bible alone is the Word of God means that the Bible is divinely inspired.

20. Secondly, Sola Scriptura says, “the Bible alone is the Word of God.”
21. In other words, the Bible alone is the divinely inspired Word of God.
22. Thirdly, the Bible alone is the “only infallible rule in all matters of faith and practice.”¹
23. Now as we look at the second sola, sola fide, we are talking about salvation is “by faith alone.”
24. We believe the Bible teaches that salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ.
25. It is apart from human works.
26. That means, walking an aisle doesn’t save you nor does being baptized or

¹ Golden Hills Community Church. The Five Solas: Foundational Truth that Defines Our Faith . Kindle Edition.

joining a church.

27. The material principle of the Reformation was sola fide—the doctrine of justification by faith alone.²
28. This is “the article with and by which the church stands, without which it falls” (articulus stantis et cadentis ecclesiae).
29. “The article of justification is the master and prince, the lord, the ruler, and the judge over all kinds of doctrines; it preserves and governs all church doctrine and raises up our conscience before God. Without this article the world is utter death and darkness.”
30. “If the article of justification is lost, all Christian doctrine is lost at the same

² Golden Hills Community Church. The Five Solas: Foundational Truth that Defines Our Faith . Kindle Edition.

time.”³

31. Our justification is only possible through Christ.
32. The Law cannot justify you nor can you justify yourself.
33. Our justification is through Jesus.
34. Romans 3:28 says, we are “justified by faith apart from the works of the Law”.
35. It is a gift.
36. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB) says, “by grace through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of

³ Sproul, R.C. Faith Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine of Justification. electronic ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000. Print.

works, so that no one may boast.”

37. Romans 3:24 (NASB) being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

38. Last time we looked at...

LESSON

I. The Meaning of Justification

And we said that...

A. Justification is Not an Act of Divine Pardon

1. In justification, God does not pardon the sinner

2. In Justification God Makes a Legal Declaration

- a) We call it a forensic declaration
- b) Forensics has to do with judicial judgment or declaration
- c) What happens in justification is not a pardon; it is an act whereby God declares a person to be just
- d) This is not a change in the sinner's character or nature, only a change in his status, but it carries ramifications that guarantee other changes will follow

- e) Forensic decrees like this are fairly common in everyday life
- f) When a man and woman are married, they stand before the minister and recite their vows and at the end of the ceremony, the minister says, “By the authority vested in me by the state of ???, I pronounce you husband and wife.”
- g) Instantly they are legally husband and wife whereas seconds before they had been an engaged couple, now they were married
- h) Nothing inside them actually changed when those words were

spoken

- i) But their status changed before God, the law, and their family and friends
- j) When the minister spoke those words, it was a legal declaration only
- k) In a similar manner, when a jury foreman reads a verdict, the defendant is no longer the “accused.”
- l) Legally and officially he instantly becomes either guilty or innocent—depending on the verdict

m) Nothing in his actual nature changes, but if he is found not guilty he will walk out of court a free person in the eyes of the law, fully justified

B. In Biblical Terms, Justification is a Divine Verdict of “Not Guilty—Fully Righteous”

1. It is the reversal of God’s attitude toward the sinner
2. Whereas He formerly condemned, He now vindicates
3. Although the sinner lived under God’s wrath, as a believer he or she is now under God’s blessing

4. Justification is more than simple pardon; pardon alone would still leave the sinner without merit before God
5. So when God justifies He imputes divine righteousness to the sinner (Rom.4:22-25)
6. Christ's own infinite merit thus becomes the grounds on which the believer stands before God
7. So justification elevates the believer to a realm of full acceptance and divine privilege in Jesus Christ
8. So justification is the act by which God judicially declares a person to be righteous in his sight

Next we need to understand...

II. The Meaning of Faith

A. Faith Means That We Place Our Trust in Christ and His Righteousness

1. We do not trust our own righteousness because we do not have any
2. When we trust Christ's righteousness on our behalf and embrace him, then God transfers legally his righteousness to us

B. A Double Transfer is Involved In Salvation

1. Christ dies for our salvation, but he also lives for our salvation
2. Our sins are transferred to Jesus, and he died on the cross for us to bear those sins
3. This is a legal transfer
4. God did not reach down into our souls and grab a hunk of sin and place it on the back of Jesus
5. God assigned our guilt to his Son
6. He transferred it from us to Christ, but that is only half the transaction
7. The other half is that he took Christ's righteousness and assigned it to us

when we believed so that now when God looks at us, knowing all of our righteousness is as filthy rags, we will not perish

8. He has given us the cloak of the righteousness of Jesus
9. That is the righteousness of God that Paul introduced in Romans 1, the righteousness not by which God himself is righteous but that which he makes available to all who put their trust in Christ
10. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (vv. 22—24).

Now that's what we see as we look at
3:21-31...

God provides the solution to man's problem
of sin and judgment by sending Jesus
Christ to earth to take the judgment sinners
deserve

Jesus, who is perfectly righteous and has
no sin, became sin on the cross

He took man's sin and punishment upon
Himself, thus freeing those who trust in Him
of sin and making them righteous before
God

This is why "this section has been called
'the heart of the epistle and of the Pauline
message.'"

It addresses man's sin and condemnation by providing the righteousness of God which is available by faith in Jesus Christ

Now notice the phrase in verse 21...

III. The Righteousness of God

God's righteousness is different from all other kinds of righteousness in many ways

First of all, it is different because of...

A. Its Source

Which is God Himself.

Isaiah 45:8 (NASB) "Drip down, O heavens, from above, And let the clouds pour down righteousness; Let the earth

open up and salvation bear fruit, And righteousness spring up with it. I, the Lord, have created it.

Second, God's righteousness is different in...

B. Its Essence

It is a comprehensive righteousness that fulfills both the precept and the penalty of God's law, under which all men stand judged

The precept of God's law is the perfect fulfillment of it

In other words, it is sinless perfection, which only Jesus fulfilled

He kept every requirement of God's law without even the most minute deviation or shortcoming

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin

In order for Jesus to fulfill the penalty of the law for sinful mankind, God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor.5:21)

1 Peter 2:24 (NASB) and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to

righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

God's righteousness is different because of its source and essence and also because of...

C. Its Duration

His righteousness is everlasting righteousness, existing from eternity to eternity

Throughout Scripture His righteousness is referred to as everlasting

1. Psalms 119:142 (NASB) Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

2. Isaiah 51:8 (NASB) "For the moth will eat them like a garment, And the grub will eat them like wool. But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation to all generations."

3. Daniel 9:24 (NASB) "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place."

The person who therefore receives God's righteousness receives everlasting righteousness.

Now as we come to the next section,

verses 21-31, “Paul teaches that what we could not effect ourselves (righteousness) because we are under the wrath of God, God has provided as a free gift through faith in Jesus Christ.”

IV. How Believers Are Justified (vv.21-31)

Notice several things about the righteousness that God gives to the sinner...

A. It is Apart From the Law (v.21)

B. It is Witnessed By the Law and the Prophets (v.21)

C. It is Through Faith in Jesus Christ (v.22)

D. It is Only for Those who Believe (v.22)

E. All have Sinned According to Verse 23

F. Justification is a “gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” (v.24) so...

G. It is Provided Only Through the Redemption of Christ (v.24) and the “propitiation in His blood” (v.25)

CONCLUSION

1. The question this morning is “Have you been declared by God to be righteous?”
2. Remember it is only by faith in Jesus Christ.

3. No faith. No righteousness from God. Only wrath.
4. How do you become righteous?
5. Repent and believe in Jesus Christ and He gives you His righteousness and declares you to be justified.
6. This is sola fide.
7. Let's pray.