

November 8, 2020

"ALL" By Faith Alone in Christ Alone!
Romans 1:16-17, Galatians 2:15-21

All Scripture English Standard Version unless noted!

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Galatians 2:15-21 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; **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.

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! **18** For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. **19** For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. **20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

We will come back to these verses later

But right now let me get us started thinking

Look at what Paul is telling us in these verses

1. Romans 1:16-17 is the theme of the book of Romans
2. We see clearly that salvation is by "faith alone"

3. We see that the offer of salvation is to "all" men without distinction
4. In the Romans and Galatians text we see that "faith alone in Christ alone" leads to sanctification and the living a life of faith

Remember we will come back to these verses later
2 weeks ago we looked at the righteousness of God revealed in the OT!

Introduction

Two things that all people need:

1. Someone to pay our sin penalty
2. Someone to do what we could never do, keep the law, be perfectly obedient to God and earn our righteousness

Three things that Christ did in His life, death and resurrection

1. Kept the law for His people and was perfect in His obedience to His Father
2. Paid the sin penalty for His people
3. Has bestowed His resurrection power on His to live a sanctified life

October 31 was the 503rd Anniversary of the Reformation which is a good time to talk about the 5 Sola's and in particular. "by faith alone"

By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone, for God's glory alone
These Sola's address man's most serious question
How can a sinner, an unjust person, stand before a holy and just God?

Psalm 130:3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

All people must at some point in time stand in the presence of God and be judged

At that time God will either condemn or justify the person standing before Him

In order for an unjust person to stand in the presence of a just and holy God that person must be justified

Romans 5:1-11 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

That person must be counted righteous

The question then becomes, how does this person receive this needed righteousness?

How can a sinner be justified in the sight of God?

It can only happen when another does what no mere man could do

Again, last week Tom did a wonderful job of sharing with the church that we are made right with God through "faith alone, in Christ alone"

Today we will look into the righteousness of Christ that "faith alone, in Christ alone" secures

2 weeks ago we looked at the righteousness of God revealed in the OT!

Today we will look at how the NT saints are justified

Let's do a quick Scripture review of the OT

So when God declared Adam "very good" He was declaring Adam righteous

Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Proverbs 2:20 So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.

But, this righteousness was conditional, it was untested

Remember the covenant, it had two parts

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:15-17 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

And we know what happened

Then we begin to see things change and God begins to speak of what He will do

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Then we see that **Adam** believes the promise of the seed of woman and names the woman "Eve", which means "the giver of life"

Genesis 3:20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Then we see another clue

Genesis 3:21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

The blood of another had to be shed so man could be restored to God's presence and the man and His sinfulness had to be covered with the blood of another

The situation continued to deteriorate

Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And God purposed to start over with this righteous man named Noah and his family

Genesis 6:7-8 So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Then God destroys the world with the flood

Genesis 8:15-17 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds

and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”

Noah and his family came out of the Ark and quickly fell into sin by drinking too much of the fruit of the vine

Then man removes all doubt that they will ever be able to live in obedience to God and righteousness

Genesis 11:1-9 This is the tower of Babel account when God confused the language

But what we saw hinted of in Genesis 3:15 and the “seed of the woman” and in the “garments of skin” we begin to see clearly in Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Then in Genesis 15 we see that God takes over the responsibility to maintain the covenant that He made with Abram

Genesis 15:1-21 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2 But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number

them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

7 And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

Then in the prophets we see God begin to speak clearly about His plan

Isaiah 53:1-11 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

***2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.***

***3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

***4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.***

***5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us
peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.***

***6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.***

***7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.***

***8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?***

***9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,***

*although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be
satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the
many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

**Today we will introduce the "righteousness of
God" revealed in the NT!**

*Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone
who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from
faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live
by faith."*

**Our righteousness comes by "faith alone, in
Christ alone"**

We will not spend a lot of time here but I want you
to see clearly from the text that our salvation is in
faith in Christ alone with nothing added to it

1. It is not faith plus works

2. It is not faith plus the ordinances (this case circumcision)

3. It is not faith plus keeping the law

It was faith in God alone and the work of His Son Jesus Christ that was finished on the cross, no +’s

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Gospel—the good news

It is God’s “power” that saves those who believe

No distinction

Then look at v17

“righteousness of God”

1. Three times in Romans this righteousness has reference to God’s attribute of “justice”, Romans 3:5,25,26

2. Five times it is in reference to the “righteousness of God” imputed to all who believe in His Son
Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 3:21-25 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness,

because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Romans 10:3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

3. This "righteousness" is a part from works of keeping the law

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

Romans 4:1-8 (1-8, not by works) What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered;

8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

4. This "righteousness" is not our own but becomes our own

Philippians 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.

1 Corinthians 1:30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.,

5. This "righteousness" is the gift of God

Romans 5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

6. This "righteousness" is received by "faith lone in Christ alone"

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Romans 9:30-10:4 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Galatians 2:15-21 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 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.

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

7. The "righteousness" will live by faith

Let Paul begin the discussion...

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Romans 6:19-21 Phillips New Testament-
The new service completely ousts the old

In the past you voluntarily gave your bodies to the service of vice and wickedness—for the purpose of becoming wicked. So, now, give yourselves to the service of righteousness—for the purpose of becoming really good.

Those that have true faith will reveal it by their works and their fruit

Hear me well, I despise works based preaching and works based salvation thinking

But I also despise, "I believe in God" O "I am saved" preaching that does not teach that true change and faith will lead to a radically reoriented life

Here is what the Reformers taught, "justification is by faith alone, but not by faith that is alone"!

True faith is never alone!

It always manifests itself in a changed, life in good works

James 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

We are to never teach that we do to get Jesus to do But we do teach that we do because of what Christ has done for our salvation and our trust in that

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 3:11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

Hebrews 10:38 But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

The just by faith shall live

The same faith takes hold of us and gives us interest
in all the promises of God

As we live in danger we are secure from eternal
destruction punishment

I rest my case in Scripture alone!

Our salvation in by "faith alone in Christ alone" and
true faith will always manifest itself in the person
being sanctified" Q45. What is sanctification? 45. It
is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct,
(Hulse's Catechism)