

Conclusion

Let me finish in the same way as I started.

In preaching the gospel, the doctrine of justification by faith alone on the basis of God's grace must be preached (in the widest, new-covenant sense of the word) to and for the saints. It is full of comfort for them; along with its Siamese twin, positional sanctification,¹ it lays the foundation for their assurance. And the doctrine is replete with motive for the saints' progressive sanctification. This is why justification by faith alone must be preached to and for the saints.

But justification by faith must also be preached (in the widest sense of the word) with power and passion to unconverted sinners. Unless sinners trust Christ they will perish. Sinners are under the wrath of God, and unless they repent and trust Christ, and are justified by faith through union with him, they will be damned for ever. It is only as they trust Christ that they are actually justified. Consequently, unless we are really preaching this make-or-break doctrine to unbelievers, we are hindering them hearing of the only way of salvation through the only Saviour for sinners. And we shall have to answer for it.

The application to us as believers must be obvious. In the new covenant, every believer is a preacher, in the widest sense of the word.² Brothers and sisters in Christ, if what you have read in this booklet has set out the biblical doctrine of justification, I hope you (and I include myself in saying this) will be moved to preach the gospel more freely and passionately than ever we have done before. The need is desperate!

In addition, my hope is that every unbeliever reading these pages will be moved to trust Christ and thus be

¹ See my *Fivefold; Positional*.

² See my *The Priesthood*.

What Is Justifying Faith?

justified by faith in him. Unless you do, I warn you, you will perish. I urge you, therefore, come to Christ now.