

## Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023  
Sermon Road Map

Romans 3:19-28 EHV  
Rev. Roger W. Huffman, Vacancy Pastor

### Here we stand: Justification by faith alone!

- 502 years ago on April 18 Luther declared at Worms: **Here I stand.**
  - ◆ His stand: on the clear teachings of the Bible - God's Word
  - ◆ Its heart: <sup>28</sup> **...a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.**
- A church without this heart is a corpse! Dead, worse than worthless. Deadly.
- God used the book of Romans to open Luther's eyes to this missing teaching
  - ◆ **For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith, for faith, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith."** Romans 1:17 EHV
  - ◆ <sup>21</sup> **But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. ...** <sup>22</sup> **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.**
- After Worms - Luther's German translation of the NT captured Paul's point here:  
<sup>28</sup> **...a person is justified by faith alone without the works of the law.**
  - ◆ For Rome taught and still teaches it's **by faith and works** (good deeds)
- <sup>28</sup> **For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.**
  - ◆ Paul included those he wrote to and all the faithful of all time in the **we**
  - ◆ Greek: **we conclude** = *after careful consideration we hold to this ongoing truth*
  - ◆ Where do you stand and why? Let us carefully consider and reaffirm our stand.

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#### ❖ Carefully consider what this means

- In Romans 1:18-3:20 Paul exposes the sin problem of every human
- In conclusion: <sup>19</sup> **Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that (with the purpose that) every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment.**
  - ◆ Our guilt under moral law leaves us all speechless - no defense - condemned
  - ◆ Our gracious Creator is totally just in demanding that we never disrespect him.
    - Always treat him as your source of life, where we live and how we live.
    - Always treat others with the love he shows us.
  - ◆ Our rebellious wicked hearts condemn us. We look for hole to hide in.
    - Not only our naughtiness. Also neglect. Failure to always respect God!
  - ◆ Luther's guilt, he took God seriously. *Catholic guilt* is still well known today.
  - ◆ TILM - reaching out to Mormon women who are told *Be ye perfect*.
    - He didn't say *try to be perfect* or *start being perfect*. Condemned!
  - ◆ Law = no defense/silent & **through the law we become aware of sin** - exposed
    - Sinners response in face of God's law: *defensive, silent, crushed, angry/rebel*
    - How foolish to take a stand against God and his holy will.
  - ◆ It's a universal every person problem: **In fact, there is no difference,** <sup>23</sup> **because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** *Glory* = standard & praise
    - All need to be convicted of this **all** to find any good news in the next **all**.

- *...and [all] are justified [acquitted] freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...*
  - ◆ Those convicted by their guilt and shortcomings - are **stunned** to be included.
    - God, whom we offended, is the very one who solves **our** problem. **Amazing!**
    - Here's a righteousness from God that's absolutely unconditionally free to **all**.
  - ◆ It's critical for our comfort and confidence to know God acquitted **all**
    - Right out in the open for all to see - Jesus' shed blood fully paid our debt
    - This was a just punishment because Jesus assumed the guilt of all as his own.
    - Once God's justice was fully compensated, **God declared all acquitted.**
      - Those who think *they are better than others* are offended to be equals.
    - This truth **leaves no room for doubt** that your sins, **every** one, is paid for!
    - Without this **all** we have nothing to stand on - no solid grounds for faith.
  - ◆ <sup>26</sup> *He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.*
    - Since **all** are justified/acquitted - God no longer holds your guilt against you.
    - God's **purpose** for making this payment was to **set people free from sin.**
      - Christ's atonement freed **all** from their debt of **guilt.**
      - Those who don't care: **remain** in sin, hostile to their Savior God. **Dead!**
      - **Through faith** (the new self **God** creates through the gospel) God rescues people from slavery to sin to be his servant, robed in Christ's righteousness.
      - **God's gift** of faith is the **means** through which God's purpose is realized.
      - **God's gift** of faith gives the gift of new living fellowship with God.

See the impact of this stunning message of God's grace on the Hmong in Vietnam, Mormons, people of India, Nepal, and other places where it is new news.

- ❖ **Carefully consider the implication that it's all God's work, none of ours.**
  - If anyone adds anything to God's grace - doubt and fear follow (anti-faith)
    - ◆ *Have I done enough? Was it good enough? If I really believe, why did I....?*
    - ◆ Peace, joy, hope are all destroyed - riddled with doubt.
  - Protestants have perverted the gospel adding conditions to *faith and believing.*
    - ◆ *If you only believe. Truly, sincerely, fully believe with all your heart.*
    - ◆ This takes a person's eyes off the faithful God to focus on frail self.
    - ◆ As soon as the **quality** and **quantity** of **your faith** is the focus, it's **your** doing.
  - We are saved by **faith alone** - the **trust** that Jesus has **done it all.**
    - ◆ Faith that trusts God's word: *you are fully forgiven, you are my child forever*
    - ◆ **All** who take God at his word **are believers**
    - ◆ *Those who trust in their faith have their feet firming planted in midair.*
  - An example. *If God asked you why should I let you spend eternity with me?*
    - ◆ **Don't** say, *Because I believed in you.* Did you notice the noun? **I** - basis/focus
    - ◆ *Because **your Son** paid for all my sin and **you** made me yours in Baptism.*
    - ◆ Faith stands on Jesus' completed works and promises. Stand there! Doubts flee.
- ❖ **Carefully consider the impact of continually confessing, *Here I stand.***
  - Daily living and breathing this truth renews faith and grows in grace.
  - It produces God's reformation in your life, family, church, community, and world
  - Let God's reformation continue with us as we maintain...

**Here we stand: Justification by faith alone!**