

Crossroads Baptist Church
March 11, 2007 10:00
Romans 4: 20-25
Romans #23

“The Doctrine of Faith Alone”

When God repeats Himself, its always for emphasis.

The message God wants us to know is that salvation is by faith alone.

The Christian church has long preached and stood strong on the principle that salvation was by faith; but we have not been as strong in preaching that salvation is by faith alone.

This simple word “alone” separates many a Christian men and even caused one of the great periods of history called the Reformation under Martin Luther.

Hebrews 11: 6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”
Romans 1: 17 “The just shall live by faith.”

Paul gives us this truth in Romans 3:22 We got it in Romans 3:28. We got with the example of Abraham in Romans 4: 1-5. We got it with the example of David in Romans 4: 6-8.

1. Faith alone acknowledges the sovereignty of God.

Its all about God and His sovereign work. It is God who even gives the faith in order to believe in Him. He alone determines when that time to believe is. It is God alone who had the plan of redemption by faith alone. No religious council, no man, no angelic hiarchy.

2. Faith alone prohibits boasting.

Since it is of God and faith, then we can't boast of our preaching, our plans, our promotions, our ploys. “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.” I Cor. 1:31

3. Faith alone ensures repentance.

John came preaching “Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus then preached the same.

Repentance from

- a. Sin – our dead work

- b. Self – our inability to save ourselves

The greatest thing God saved me from was myself.

Faith toward God can never take place until there as been a turning away from faith in your work or your self.

4. Faith alone guarantees the effective work of the Holy Spirit in conviction.

Only the conviction of the Holy Spirit can reveal this to a man to the saving of his soul. Man will never come up on his own that no work or human merit can save him or qualify him before God.

5. Faith alone glorifies the person and work of Jesus Christ.

When a person turns from his own works and self, he immediately faces the person and work of Jesus Christ. If there is any other way to be saved, then God made a mockery out of Jesus Christ and God is no longer a good God, but a cruel one.

Three ways to spell salvation: Don't - don't do this, don't do that
Do – do this, do that
Done – its already done in Jesus.

6. Faith alone provides security for the believer.

Since it is faith alone that saves us; then that means no work, no failure on my part can remove me from salvation.

7. Faith alone solidifies the whole message of the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation, the way any one was ever made right with God was through faith

8. Faith alone assures salvation by grace. Romans 4: 16

Its all about what God has done for us. He forgave our iniquities (Romans 4: 7-8) and it is God who imputes righteousness (Romans 4:6).

9. Faith alone delivers the desired goal of works.

In works, we have two goals, to have more good works to overcome our bad works and to produce righteousness.

By faith, both goals are obtained:

- a. We have forgiveness of sin.

b. We have imputed righteousness

With God, you can have your cake and eat it too.

10. Faith alone leads to fruitful works.

Just with Abraham, he believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). Then 14 to 29 years later he instituted the rite of circumcision. The outward sign of obedience to God.

True faith always leads to obedience.

James 2:20 “Faith without works is dead.” The faith that does not lead to works is not saving faith at all.

Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

11. Faith alone simplifies our missionary appeal.

Faith alone is our message to anyone, anywhere, any time. You don't have to be a Jew with circumcision and their dietary laws. You don't have to be a Baptist or a Methodist. All you have to do is believe.

Faith is the most universally fundamental act of the human heart.