

“THIS I KNOW!”



Part 5: “Justification by Faith: God’s gift of righteousness in Christ!”

**Romans 3:21-26, 4:1-25, 8:28-30;
Galatians 2:16-21, 3:1-14**

Introduction: God HAS spoken, and His truth is GOOD NEWS to those who have been given ears to hear, minds to understand and hearts to believe !

Heidelberg Catechism #21: “True faith is not only a certain knowledge ... but also a hearty trust ...”

The “fifth link” in God’s plan of salvation: Election, effectual calling, regeneration, repentance and faith, and justification .

Galatians 2:16-21: “ ... we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law ...” (vs. 16).

True faith receives the perfect righteousness of Christ as a gift from God and thus leads to being justified, declared righteous, in God’s sight!

Can you say, “THIS I KNOW!” ??

I. The doctrine of “justification by faith” ...

Romans 3:10,20: “ None is righteous ... For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight!”

Romans 3:21-26: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift , through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ...” (vss. 23-24).

Romans 10:1-4: “ ... For being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness” (vs. 3).

The doctrine of “justification by faith” is unique and indispensable to Christianity because the perfect righteousness we RECEIVE is CHRIST’S righteousness!!

In **Romans 4**, Paul traces the truth of this doctrine all the way back to Abraham , the one with whom God first declared His “Covenant of Grace .” (Genesis 12-17)

Romans 4:1-8: “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” (vs. 4; Genesis 15:6).

Romans 4:16: “That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring.”

Galatians 2:15-16 ... There is ONE way to be saved from God’s wrath and judgment: to receive the righteousness of Christ by faith !

Romans 1:16-17: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel ... for in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith , as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith !’”

II. The application of the doctrine of “justification by faith” ...

Galatians 1:6-9: “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed !!” (vs. 8).

If you believe you must earn your own righteousness before God you are either lost , or at best, are a “ babe ” in Christ who needs to grow up!

Galatians 3:10-12: For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse ; for it is written, ‘ Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, to do them!’” (vs. 10).

Galatians 3:13-14: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us!” (vs. 13).

Galatians 3:25-29: “And if you are Christ’s , then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise ” (vs. 29).

The true Gospel offers the perfect righteousness of Jesus as the gift of God, received by faith .

True faith receives the perfect righteousness of Christ as a gift from God and thus leads to being justified, declared righteous, in God’s sight!