

Sola Fide
Sermon 9 in the Romans Series

Romans 3:27-4:8

Righteousness apart from the Law – v. 21

Righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ – v. 22

The phrase can also be translated “through the faithfulness of Christ.”

All need this righteousness – v. 23

Justification – v.24a

Justification means Christians are “not guilty” in Christ.

Satan (the accuser) cannot even lay a charge to God’s elect.

Redemption – v. 24b

A Biblical Illustration of Redemption is Redeeming His people from Egyptian slavery.

Propitiation – v. 25

God is Just and the Justifier v. 26

I. Sola Fide Asserted 3:27-31

1. No boasting v. 27

A law of works == man’s self-salvation.

A law of faith – sounds confusing. Think “a principle of faith”.

2. Faith Alone (Sola Fide) v. 28

Luther added “sola” (alone) in his German translation of the Scriptures.

3. One God – One way of Salvation – v. 29-30

4. Law in this context is the Old Testament as a whole – v. 31

We need to understand “law” in the context in which it is written.

The New Testament confirms what God has said in the O.T.

II. Sola Fide Illustrated 4:1-8

1. Many of the Jew believed Father Abraham was the prime example of a man who was justified by his Works.

Here is Romans 4 -- Paul, the lawyer of grace -- rips Abraham away from those who would claim works-righteousness and sets him forth as an example of sola fide.

2. If Abraham was justified by works, he would have reason to Boast v. 1-2

3. The Greek Word *logizomai* v. 3

It is the key word of this chapter appearing 11 times.
v. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24

The BDAG dictionary: To reckon, to calculate, to credit, to take into account
ESV uses “credit” (s) (ed) to show that the same Greek word is being used.

4. Why was Abraham Righteous? v. 3

He believed God.
Taken from Genesis 15:6.

5. What You Earn by Works -- v. 4

Wages are something you earn and deserve; wages are not grace.
Salvation is not a reward for one’s work.
Salvation is a free gift from God – by grace – by faith alone.

6. God justifies the Ungodly -- v. 5

Faith is reckoned for righteousness. God takes us as we are – ungodly.
1) The sole ground of our justification is the righteousness of God.
2) Faith alone is the sole means of justification.
3) Faith is distinct from its fruit.

LBCF 11:2 – Faith...is the alone instrument of justification; yet it is not
alone in the person justified... and is not dead faith, but works by love.

7. David’s Example -- v. 6-8

Paul quotes Psalm 32:1-2
Our sins are forgiven.
Our sins are covered.
To those of faith -- God does not “count” his sin -- LXX *logizomai*