

Righteousness By Faith

0) Righteousness – v. 21, 22

1) Standard – v. 23

- a. The Law of God
- b. The Glory of God

2) Résumé – v. 23

...all have sinned AND fallen short of the glory of God

3) Justify – v. 24, 26

“to declare righteous,” not “make righteous”

4) Grace – v. 24

5) Faith – v. 22, 25, 26

a) Definition

Question: What is faith?

Answer: *Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.*

- Acknowledging the truthfulness of God’s Word.

“Assent” – when you agree that something is true.

Assent is a necessary condition, but not a sufficient condition for Salvation.

Necessary – it must be there, but won’t bring the result by itself.

Sufficient – when it is there, the result will happen

- Trusting / Receiving / Resting on Jesus alone

b) Wrong Views of Faith

1. Faith as a “cause / grounds” of Salvation

Cause / grounds is what our salvation rests on.
Means / instrument is how you get at salvation.

Let me illustrate: Let’s say you are cash poor. And I have this wad of cash... And I give it to you, you would suddenly be wealthy...

- Result: You Being Wealthy
- Source: Me & my benevolent heart
- Cause: The Cash itself
- Means: Your hand

So – regarding Salvation... Here is where faith fits...

- Result – Your Salvation
- Source – God, His love and mercy
- Cause / Grounds – Christ, His Righteousness
- Means – Your Faith

Examples:

- Roman Catholic Church

Jesus provides the sacrifice
Church provides the sacraments
Mary provides special intercession for you
The Saints provide a treasury of merits
You provide your faith by doing the sacraments
Purgatory provides for any of your deficiencies in faith

- Proud Protestants

2. Faith as mere “assent”

Rom 4:18-22 – Abraham
Heb 11:7 – Noah
Heb 11:24-26 – Moses
Heb 11:31 – Rahab

Saving faith is not a cold, empty rationalism that simply gives intellectual assent to facts. At the same time, it is not a blind entrusting of ourselves into the hands of someone [unknown]. Instead, it is a warm, intellectually vital embrace of the Savior and His promises, believing that He can and will do all that He has pledged. It is the willingness to trust Him and His Word in any and all circumstances, and an eagerness to repent when we doubt Him.¹

¹ RC Sproul, “Three Aspects of Faith”, <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/three-aspects-of-faith/>, accessed 5/29/19.