

The joy of Faith Alone in Christ Alone

April 26, 2020

Pastor Mark Turner

Galatians 2:1-21

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Key Question of religion & spirituality:

- How can I gain God's approval?
- How can I be right with God so that I enjoy His love and escape judgment?

- This question drove the Protestant Reformation
 - Martin Luther, Augustinian friar who struggled w/ approval from God
 - Lived early life in fear and dread
- Paul dealt with same issue with Peter: Gal 2:5,14
 - Paul confronted apostle Peter boldly: v11 - Peter stood 'condemned'
 - Peter was 'the rock' Mt 16:18, been with Jesus, led apostles...
 - Peter had been good Jew, now follower of Christ Gal 2:14
 - Peter understood saved by faith, put away Jewish works - Acts 10&11
 - Paul: we NOT justified by works, but through faith in Jesus 2:15-16

- Reformation & Peter/Paul confrontation were about how we are justified!
 - Paul confronted Peter, Luther confronted church – both wanted to ADD something to Christ's work
 - WSC Q#33: What is justification? A: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ **imputed** to us, and received by faith alone.
 - Luther realized: God's righteousness was NOT just a characteristic of God (that He judges justly) BUT also a GIFT from God.
 - God provides and gives us the righteousness we need by His GRACE to stand before Him – we don't earn it!
- Many talk of Grace, but often ADD something to God's grace
 - Medieval Catholic church believed in God's grace, BUT God's grace was merely a BOOST to help us.
- God's grace doesn't just boost our righteousness, God gives us Jesus!
 - Is grace INFUSED or IMPUTED?
 - RC - God's grace is given and obtained so we become righteous
 - GOSPEL - God's grace is IMPUTED, so that Christ's perfect righteousness is counted to us as righteousness. Gal 3:6
 - RC - Why purgatory was needed... some don't quite make it - heresy
- Hope of the Gospel:
 - All sinners justly deserve condemnation - Rm 3:23
 - God sent Jesus to be the righteousness we need - Rm 5:8
 - God gives us the gift of faith - Eph 2:8-9
 - Our faith in Christ's work, not our works, is what justifies us - Gal 2:16

That Gospel message should give you amazing JOY and PEACE if you have faith in Christ's work! It is not our keeping of the law that justifies us. We keep obey the law because we are now part of God's family. Gal 2:20

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