

OPEN HEAVEN

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Living and sharing the amazing love of God



Sermon Notes

READ, REFLECT, ACT - JOSHUA 5:1-9

What do I make of all of this?

What do I feel God is saying to me?

What do I need to take from this?

What changes do I need to make?

How can I share this with my friends/family both verbally and practically?

Ideas that change the world

A WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FOR CHRIST CHURCH

One of the pillars of the Reformation was the belief that we are saved by faith alone. The cry *sola fide* declared that we come to salvation, not through any good of our own, but solely through the work and person of Jesus Christ.

What does faith alone mean? This is the doctrine of justification. Here are some of the questions the Reformers sought to answer:

- Are we saved by faith alone or faith plus works?
- Does Christ's righteousness only clean our account of past sins (before salvation)?
- Does Christ's righteousness wholly replace our own?

Sola fide declares that we are saved by faith alone and all of Christ's righteousness is credited to our account. There is nothing more we can or need to do to achieve our salvation. If there were remaining work on our end, then salvation would be in our hands, not God's. God loves us.

DOES IT MATTER?

While this may have been an important question for the Reformers, does it still matter 500 years later? The answer is a resounding yes! Throughout history the question has not changed: How can a person be made right with God? We all must confront this question, and *sola fide* gives us our answer. This doctrine reminds us of the grace of God and His gospel. We can testify that God is good because He is the one who ultimately and completely accomplishes our salvation. He loves us so much that he did all the work. How we are justified and able to stand before God is one of the key components of the gospel, and one that is worth living for.

SECOND BIBLE STUDY

Faith Alone | Romans 5:1-11

'By penance we make satisfaction for our sins' (Cardinal George Pell). Think the ways in which people attempt to 'make up for' their sins.

1. How does God declare you to be righteous (or justified)?
2. How do you obtain access to God's grace?
3. What did you do to deserve Christ's death for you?
4. What works can contribute to your salvation?
5. What does our future hold if we are justified?
6. If we receive salvation by grace through faith alone, does this mean we are no longer accountable for our actions? (see James 2:14–26)
7. What effect does justification by faith alone have on
 - a. Assurance of salvation
 - b. Evangelism
 - c. Arrogance
 - d. Legalism
 - e. Ritualism
9. Do you have faith in what God has done in making you righteous through the death of Jesus?
10. Are you justified by faith in Jesus Christ alone?