

## ***The Righteous Shall Live by Faith Alone***

*Romans 1:16-17*

The Reformation doctrine, Sola Fide or Faith Alone, begs the question “How is one saved?” During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Roman Catholic Church solicited various ways for one to purge themselves of sin and eternal bliss in Paradise. The Reformers, and Martin Luther in particular, argued that salvation was by faith alone. Romans 1:16-17 began the spark in Luther who was used by God to spark the Protestant Reformation. We will be considering three facts about faith as we study the doctrine that was at the heart of the Reformation.

### **1. Faith,** \_\_\_\_\_

What is faith? sure knowledge that we embrace as truth, and we have this assured confidence because we possess the truth. God has revealed the truth, His truth, to us in His Word. True faith is something that we cannot manufacture. The faith that we possess is something that was graciously given to us by God (Eph. 2:8-9). A biblical understanding of man and his sin leads us to a theology that God is the sole agent of our salvation (Phil. 1:6; Heb. 12:2). Sinful man left to himself is unwilling and incapable of coming to God in faith (Rom. 3:10-11). How does one receive the gift of faith? Through the preach of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16, 10:17).

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### **2. Faith,** \_\_\_\_\_

The doctrine of Sola Fide or Faith Alone was at the heart of the Reformation because it is at the heart of the Gospel. We are justified by faith alone in Christ. Faith in Christ does not have to be accompanied with anything else. The Bible unanimously teaches that justification is by faith alone in Christ (Rom. 1:16-17, 3:21-26, 4:2-3, 6-8, 20-25; cf. Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-10; Gal. 2:16).

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### **3. Faith,** \_\_\_\_\_

Christians ought to live a lifestyle of faith. God did not give us faith so that we can place that in Christ one day in our lives and then be on our merry way. God saved us to live by faith in Him throughout eternity, and this eternal commitment to faith in Him begins here in this life and right at this very moment. God graciously granted us faith so that we can be justified before God now and forever. As we faithfully follow Jesus in this life, don't forget what God saved you for! God saved you and me so that we can be with Him forever! (2 Cor. 5:1, 7; Heb. 11:13-16) The Good News of our faith is this: one day our faith will turn into sight.

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Faith is the gift of God, the sole means of our justification, and the eternal commitment of every believer. This God-glorifying and Christ-centered doctrine, Sola Fide, is at the heart of the Gospel. Meditate upon the most famous and familiar words of the Lord Jesus Christ, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.” The Gospel is faith alone in the Son of God for eternal life.