

BY FAITH ALONE

2 OF 5

WE BELIEVE, as **SCRIPTURE** clearly teaches, that we are justified by faith apart from works of the law. (**Romans 3:27-28; Galatians 2:16; Romans 9:31-32; Eph. 2:8-9; Philippians 3:9; etc.**)

YET ONE MIGHT ASK: Did not Christ preach both Gospel and Law?

REPLY: Yes, He most certainly did! Therefore the Christian Church must also proclaim both!

Yet the preaching of the Gospel is the sole purpose and work of Christ, who “came to seek and to save the lost.” (**Luke 19:10; Matthew 18:12; John 3:17, etc.**)

For as Apostle Paul confessed in (**1 Timothy 1:15**); *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”*

The Law, on the other hand, provides us a knowledge of our sick, miserable state of heart; that which should clearly point us to Christ! (**Romans 7:24-25**) **See submission #1 on Original Sin**

Therefore, God diagnoses this disease of the heart, through His good and perfect law; (**Psalms 19:7**) that which;

- **Demands perfect obedience,** (**Galatians 3:10-11**)
- **Condemns sin** (**James 2:9; 1 Cor. 15:56; 1 Tim. 1:9**)
- **Confronts us with a knowledge of sin** (**Romans 3:20**)

Thus our conversion to Christ is made manifest by the Gospel, aided by the Law; neither, of which, are given in fixed amounts.

Yet where either the Law or the Gospel are missing, there can be no saving faith nor can one's faith be properly maintained.

For the law's absence will cause or strengthen self-confidence and lack of repentance. The Gospel's absence will bring about hopelessness and despair.

Yet it is the Gospel alone that treats and cures this disease, with boundless grace and mercy. (**Hebrews 4:16**)

PASSAGE OF THE DAY

(**Romans 5:1**); *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Reflect upon the following passages this week; (**Romans 3:27-28; Galatians 2:16; Romans 9:31-32; Eph. 2:8-9; Philippians 3:9**)

NOTABLE QUOTE

“Paul everywhere teaches justification, not by works, but solely by faith...”

“Truly is it plain, then, that faith alone affords such blessings of God, justification and salvation--immediately and not in process as must be the case with works.

“And constitutes us children and heirs who voluntarily discharge their duties, not presuming to become godly and worthy by a servile spirit.” (1)

(1) *Sermons of Martin Luther*, Sunday after Christmas on **Galatians 4:1-7**, J. Lenker, VI Vol., Page 239, 1988 printing.

NEXT WEEKS THEME

At our conversion in Christ we become a New Creation!

***All passage - ESV**

