

Amazing Grace: Intro to Reformed Theology

Week 3 – *Justification by Faith Alone*

Brief recap of week 1 & 2

- Theology – The Study of God
- Reformed Theology – An expression of the Christian faith that is centered and grounded on the Sovereignty of God in all things
- The Authority of Scripture - God sovereignly speaks through his word alone (inspired, inerrant, infallible)

Justification by Faith Alone (Sola Fide)

- Central teaching of the Protestant Reformation
- Distinguished Christianity from every other religion and worldview: “How is man saved?”
- Justification = the action of declaring someone righteous
- Reformation was the recovery of the Gospel - Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38
- “Article upon which the Church stands or falls.” – Martin Luther
- “The hinge upon which everything turns.” – John Calvin

Justification

- How can a sinful humanity ever be justified (made right) in the sight of a Holy God?
- Great dilemma - Isaiah 6:3 & Romans 3:10-12
- The legal declaration of justification requires evidence (the grounds/basis of this verdict)
- Universal acceptance that faith is required.....the problem was the role of works

Faith Alone

- Faith – the only means by which sinners are justified before God
- Romans 3:21-26
- “Just and the Justifier” – solves the great dilemma
- God -> Righteousness of Christ -> Faith -> Unrighteous Humanity
- Double Imputation - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Why we will you be able to stand before God? (hint – it’s not just because Jesus died for your sins)

- Justification – By Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone, In Christ alone
- Saving Faith: Knowledge, Belief, Trust - James 2:19
- Role of works? – James 2:14-17; Galatians 5:16-26

Why Does It Matter? (practical application)

- Salvation is at stake! No other Gospel!
- Total dependence (no room for pride)
- Transforming faith
- Proper motivation for good works
- Satisfies our deepest longing
- It's what makes the Gospel "Good News"

Week 3 Reflection Questions

1. Pastor Rob discussed why justification by faith was so important during the Reformation. Why is the doctrine of justification so central to our theology? How does justification by faith contrast with the works based salvation of the Catholic Church during the Reformation? How would you explain the doctrine of justification by faith alone in your own words?
2. Why is it necessary for Jesus to be both God and man in order for him to secure our salvation? Pastor Rob described that Jesus' righteousness is "imputed" to us — what does it mean that his righteousness is imputed to us and how is that different from becoming righteous by our own merit?
3. How does the concept of salvation by faith alone go against our natural assumptions? How does the world and our everyday experience train us to approach God and those around us with a "works" based attitude?
4. What are the practical effects of a salvation through faith vs. a salvation through works (in terms of how you live your daily life)? Why does salvation by faith give us good news and hope? On the contrary, how does salvation by works leave us without hope?
5. Discuss what else stood out to you in Pastor Rob's talk.