

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2018

November 3, 2018

Session 3

MESSAGE OF MISSIONS

TITLE :

**JUSTIFICATION
BY FAITH ALONE**

TEXT :

**Galatians 3:1-14
1Corinthians 1:18-25**



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Hosted by Christ to the Communities Christian Connections

Introduction: Oct. 31 is known for Halloween – for its commercialize: stores, malls even TV programings caters such occasion. But there was an event for the Christian church that Oct. 31 we ought to remember.

- Ø This is the very heart of Reformation in Oct. 31, 1517 – 501 yrs. Ago, when an Augustinian German monk named Martin Luther nailed his 95 thesis/ objection to the Roman Catholic tradition & beliefs, this paved way to the fire of reformation in Europe to go back what the bible says on matter of salvation!
- Ø This is the chief article upon which a church stands or falls, for if we lose or relax this doctrine, we lose Christianity.
- Ø This is very important cause if you don't have the Doctrine of Justification by Faith Alone, you don't have the gospel, and if you don't have the gospel, the church have no reason to exist!
- Ø The church falls into apostasy because it is the cardinal/most important article that answer the question - What must I do to be saved from God's punishment & wrath which is Hell?
- Ø This is the doctrine – the Master, Prince & Head of all doctrine of salvation. If you got wrong with this doctrine everything in your theological doctrine of salvation has also fallen.

Transition: We need to learn and understand clearly what this doctrine all about!

I. The Meaning of Justification – vs. 6

- A. Verse 6: The phrase – *“it was reckon / accounted to/ credit to him as righteousness”*
- B. The word “reckon” – to impute; to charge; to put into ones account.
- C. In the bible there are 3 metaphor for justification:
 - i. Clothing Metaphor – Job 29:14/ Isaiah 61:10
 - a) We are guilty sinners standing “naked” in the presence of our Almighty God & Creator of heavens & earth.
 - b) We are trying to our naked bodies with our own self righteous deeds & works.
 - c) But all those self righteous deeds are filthy garments, rags unacceptable and reject by our Holy God.

- d) But upon our looking and coming to Christ for begs for his mercy & grace, and believed in Christ's saving work at the cross in return were clothed by Christ's perfect and acceptable garment.
- ii. Banking & Finance Metaphor – Rom. 5:17;19/ 2 Cor. 5:21
 - a) This a picture of we are again standing before our holy Judge recounting the books.
 - b) God looks and audit our spiritual life and found it we are spiritually bankrupt.
 - c) We have no spiritual capital/ assets just all liabilities. We are in huge spiritual debt. No one cannot repay God.
 - d) But when we believed! (as Abraham believed) at the finished work of Christ at the Cross of Calvary in faith
 - e) God immediately bestows, deposited all the spiritual riches and treasures of Christ in our account!
 - f) Became co-heirs, shared inheritance with Christ!
 - iii Hall of Justice/ Court Room scene – God is the Holy & Righteous Judge. (Rom. 3:21-22; 26; 5:1; 8:1)
 - a) We are guilty sinners and condemned sinners
 - b) The Moral Law of God – serves as undeniable evidence that we are indeed law breaker.
 - c) But because we believed and trust the perfect sacrifice of Jesus' death on the cross, God reverses his verdict and pronounces that we are not guilty! Instead we are acquitted!
 - d) Justification is a legal term declaring the sinner not guilty in the courtroom of God!
 - 1. It is a divine act – God alone can declare one is righteous or not guilty.
 - 2. It is an immediate! – The declaration was immediate. – example “The Parable of Tax Collector” in Luke 18:9ff (Pharisee - self righteous).
 - 3. It is a comprehensive & irrevocable act of God. – equality to all who will believed!

II. The Means of Justification – vs. 6

– our text says, “Just as Abraham believed God”

- A. This is a quotation from Gen. 15:6 – God declares he's righteous!
- B. The means of Justification is exclusively by Faith! (Rom. 3:22)

- C. Paul's strong, serious words and rebuke from the previous chapter & verses
- i. Gal. 1:6-9 – read
 - ii. Gal. 3:1 – read
 - iii. The Galatians Christians are not satisfied by mere faith in Christ, they want to have it plus their obedience to the ceremonies, ritual & the works of the law!
- D. Paul is arguing, asking, & forcing the Christian to think! Notice Paul's tone & emotion
- i. vs. 2 – “Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law or by hearing with faith?”
 - ii. vs. 5 – “The Holy Spirit supplies you by the works of the law or by hearing with faith”
 - iii. vs. 7 – Know Then, Be sure that those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.
 - iv. vs. 8-9 – God would justify the gentiles by faith!
 - v. vs. 10-12 – Apostle Paul is showing that we cannot mix the 2 system (works of the law and by faith).
 - 1 Rely on the works of the law – complete obedience; no one can fulfil it, under curse! – vs. 10; 12 no one is justified before God by the Law
 - 1 We cannot have faith in Christ & hold to the tradition/ ritual/ ceremonies of the church.
 - 1 Cannot mix faith in Christ and our own self righteousness/ good works
 - 1 Cannot add faith in Christ and our faith to the relics or dead Saints or Patrons or certificate of indulgence etc.
 - 1 Reflection: Have you put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you believe in His saving work?

Point: The OT ceremonial/ ritual laws were shadows and types of the reality which is the perfect and absolute sacrifice of Christ in the NT!

III. The Mediator of Justification – vs. 13-14

- A. The ground and foundation of justification is no other than the person and work of Christ.
- i. Verse 13 – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us”
 - ii. Double imputation or the great exchange – the curse of the believer was imputed to the body of Christ when he was at

the Cross and His perfect Righteousness was imputed to us/
to those who believe by faith!

iii. The cruel cross/ tree Christ bore the sins of those will believe.
It should be you & me who should be there!

B. No one can escape the God's punishment & wrath which is hell
– eternal punishment.

C. No one can evade the Courtroom of God's justice unless the
guilty sinner comes and look by faith in Christ work!

Challenge for our Hearer/ the Unreached:

Ø Have you consider these spiritual truths in your life?

Ø Do you see & realized in your life that you need to be saved from
hell and coming Judgment Day? Or you are so pre-occupied with
trivial and material things around you?

Ø If spiritual things don't matter to you, I'll tell right now In the
presence of God you ought to be alarm and be terrified! For what
is a stake is a matter where will your soul be in eternity!

Ø For Professing Christians:

n Beware of spiritual declension like the Galatians Christians here.

n Understanding this doctrine must move us to humility, forbearing
and forgiving to those who sinned against us. – Explain! (If God
who was able to forgive you who are you why can't you forgive?)

IV. The Message of Mission - 1 Cor. 1:18-25 (Read)

Why the church must be involved in the work of missions?

**A. First, For the Cross of Christ is the only living &
unchanging word/ message for the dying world.**

Context/ Background:

Ø At Corinth, 45 miles west of Athens the city capital of Greece
the ancient progenitor of world's knowledge & wisdom!

Ø Even the Romans in the time of Paul where captives of Greek
Civilization in terms of Philosophy & Education.

Ø The likes of Plato, Socrates, Epicures, Aristotle, etc. – Great
minds of the World

Ø They have every answer and solution to every man's detailed
problem, however, man's wisdom have no solution for man's
eternal problem on God.

- a. Man's wisdom provides the Greek gods & goddess (Greek Mythology) for these problems which fall short in the sight of GOD! In fact, it becomes compounded sins... idolatry!
 - b. Apostle Paul comes in not thru the eloquent wisdom of the world but thru the Foolishness of preaching the crucified Christ!
- Ø Paul's argument, I am not an orator (theatric, techniques of capturing his listeners) who will draw attention to himself but and herald (faithful message he needs to deliver, the listeners are the only who will respond)! Proclaimer of the message of a KING! – vs. 17, 23
- a. Those who won't understand the meaning of the Cross --- this is indeed foolishness for them.
 - b. But for those who will be called to believe – this is the power & wisdom of God revealed!
 - c. It pleases God through the folly of preaching, God's plan is being accomplish!
- Ø Notice the present tense of verbs in verses 18 & 21 – “Who are being saved/ those who are called” 3 tenses of salvation
1. Past tense refers to the Justification to address the penalty of SIN- Rom 8:24 – “For in this hope WE WERE SAVED.” Eph. 2:5 & 8 - “ by grace you have been saved”
 2. Present tense – 1 Cor. 15: 2 – “you have been saved”; 2 Cor. 2:15 – “ those who are being saved” refers to the practice of sin – we are sinning less as we grow in the faith
 3. Future tense – Rom. 5:9 – “shall be saved” - presence of Sin
- Ø No wonder the message of the cross is foolishness to the Greeks & Romans (Unreasonable – a criminal serving the highest penalty for a crime... is your savior?) Stumbling block for the Jews! “Skandalion”- scandalous (Explain!)
- a. The Gospel message exposes your sins, specific, detailed sins (e.g. like of the Samaritan woman, idolatrous, fornicator, liar, covetous, etc.)
 - b. The Gospel message will require of you to leave your comfortable life of unworldliness, unholy peers & friends₅

in which you enjoy & love their company.

- c. The gospel message will confront you! It is a hard & harsh message! It will unmask your hypocrisy. Listeners will be required to submit & surrender to Christ's Lordship – Abandoning your own comfort zone & being slave to the will of God thru Christ's words.
- d. Above all, in the very words of Jesus -Matt 7: 21-23- Those who are in Hell are religious people, who calls him Lord! Lord!, not only religious people but even religious Leaders – preacher & teachers

B. Second, For the cross of Christ is the dividing line of all/ entire humanity! – vs. 18 b & c

Note only two groups not three nor four but only 2!

- i. The THOSE & the US
- ii. The perishing & the being saved
- iii. Both conditions are in the present tense
 - 1. Those who Perishing (refused to come to the Cross & are being saved (they submit & surrender to the Cross of Christ))
 - 2. Those who are called & not called – vs. 24
 - 3. Those who know God & does not know God – vs. 21
 - 4. Those who will choose Christ & reject Christ!
- iv. In other NT verses:
 - 1. The Sheep & the goats
 - 2. The wheat & the tares
 - 3. Heaven & hell
 - 4. Place of blessedness & place of torment
 - 5. God's presence & God's wrath
- v. Those are in Adam & those who in Christ

- vi. Under death & condemnation & life & justification
- vii. Slaved in sin & forgiven from sin.

Application, Reflection & Challenge to the Unreached:

- Ø Which side do you belong? It's important that you know where you're at right now?
- Ø They need to think of it right now! Consider and realize! For what is at stake is their soul in eternity!
- Ø For leaders & workers representing your churches here- I appeal to you let's go back to believe that
 - n The Scripture alone is the ultimate authority of faith & life of our church.
 - n The Cross of Christ alone is the power & wisdom of God to be able reached the unconverted.
 - n The justification by faith alone is the only means for their salvation.
 - n This is the unchanging & living word for the dying world!
AMEN.