

# **Why the Just Must Be Made Alive By Faith**

(Rom 1:16-17)

- I. Rom 1:17- “The just shall live by faith” (4x’s in scripture)
  - A) Paul is giving another reason why he is “not ashamed” of the gospel
    - 1. It is an announcement that righteousness comes by faith and no other way, because of Rom 1:18-3:20
    - 2. The gospel declares how God can make a sinner righteous and yet remain righteous Himself
- II. Faith and its qualities
  - A) Faith is not simply “believism”
    - 1. Hebrews chapter 11 is the great picture of true faith
      - i. Heb 11:6- Believe (head)
      - ii. Heb 11:13- Persuaded (heart)
      - iii. Heb 11:13- Embraced/lived (will)
    - 2. Heb 11:1 (and entire chapter) is to show that “faith” is an “evidence”
      - i. Today faith is taught as simple “believism”, but you won’t find one single person of that persuasion in Heb ch 11
        - a) Today they teach “just believe this and these words and then you can continue unchanged as you were, carry on with life
        - b) But what true faith does is apprehends a man and takes control of that man and he is never and can never be the same
          - 1) Phil 3:12- “That for which I am apprehended”
        - c) All those in Heb 11 had the evidence of faith: they believed, were persuaded and were active in their persuasion, they were persistent in tribulation
          - 1) Faith is substance and evidence: simply look at Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc.
  - B) “Faith” is not the opposite of “works” as some teach
    - 1. Although “salvation by faith” is the opposite of “salvation by works”
      - i. The opposite of “works” is the “righteousness of God”
      - ii. All mankind will present one or the other at judgment
    - 2. We receive the “righteousness which is of God” by faith or thru the means of faith (His gift)
  - C) “Faith” is not the opposite of “law” as some teach
    - 1. Faith doesn’t make void the law, it fulfills it
    - 2. The teaching that says the “law is done away altogether” is false
      - i. The law is fulfilled in this way by faith, believing Christ kept it perfectly and will impute the righteousness of that keeping to me

- ii. The same Law of God then begins to be written on our heart
- 3. There are statements that seem to say these things about “faith,” but if we take them in their context, Paul is using “faith” for “the faith” or all that comes to us through Christ and His gospel

### III. Rom 1:18-3:20- New section begins

A) Paul is “not ashamed of the gospel” (preaches it openly) because the wrath of God insisted he do so

- 1. The wrath of God abides on all lost mankind!
- 2. This ought to be one of the chief causes of our evangelism

### B) General comments on this new section

- 1. You cannot truly understand the gospel and believe it without this section
  - i. It shows the absolute necessity of Christ and His gospel, for it shows righteousness can only come from Him as no other has it
  - ii. This section is the “bad news”
  - iii. We must not focus so much on “evangelism” through the “good news” without first making known this section
- 2. This section is the only truly accurate account of human history
  - i. Consider all the accounts of mankind and history, and none of them can explain why things have been and are as they are
    - a) Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire
    - b) History of the Western World
    - c) Plato’s Republic
    - d) Story of Civilization
    - e) War and Peace
- 3. This section in many ways is the most important section of the entire bible
  - i. Because of Darwin’s Origin of Species (1859)
    - a) Mankind today has been trained to take this theory as fact
    - b) Schools embed this in our children’s thinking
    - c) Probably the most harmful book ever written
      - 1) If evolution is true, why are we as we are?
  - ii. Because we are being told sin is not sin
    - a) This is also a teaching produced by evolution, as we are told sins are just some of the remaining imperfections in man, slowly going away
  - iii. Because it and it alone with Gen ch 3 explains why human history is as it is
    - a) I am not the least bit surprised that the world is as it is today, I expect it
    - b) I am not surprised at the United States today, I expect it
      - 1) Every civilization ends this same way (Rom 1:18-32)
        - (a) Empire failed

- (b) Philosophy failed
  - (c) Democracy failed
  - (d) Education failed
  - (e) Technology is failing
- 2) Natural man MUST always fall
- 4. Notice true evangelism (Paul's example) always starts the preaching of the gospel with this message
- C) Overview of this section
  - 1. This is always the proper method of bible study
  - 2. First get a general or birds-eye view of the whole section, then go back and examine the details
    - i. If we only take the bird-eye, we will fail at a proper understanding
    - ii. If we only take the detailed, we will miss the logic and teaching and be misled
  - 3. Why is Paul so proud of the gospel and openly preaching it and the righteousness of God by faith which has been revealed?
    - i. Because the wrath of God has also been revealed!
      - a) Rom 1:18- "For" is another "because"
      - b) No one else shall live, but all other die in wrath
        - 1) "I am not shy of preaching the gospel because the wrath of God awaits all unbelievers!"
        - (a) Paul works out the "ALL" in the in the next 2 chapters following
      - c) Rom 1:18- Makes the statement about "all" and then in v.19 Paul begins his proof
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> objection answered- "Is it fair that the gentiles be judged thus, they never had the law of Moses or God's written word, they didn't know?"
      - a) Rom 1:19-32 answers this question
      - b) The gentiles are as without excuse as the Jews
        - 1) Paul proves this by the fact that God has already given them up before
        - 2) God has already poured His wrath on gentiles previous, so it isn't wrong or unrighteous to do it again
        - (a) History itself proves God's wrath on sin
    - iii. 2nd objection- "Yes, those vile filthy people deserve it, but what about those living good moral lives as compared with them?"
      - a) Rom 2:1-16- answers this question
        - 1) It isn't morals or ideals that God is concerned with, it's sin
        - 2) If I recognize right from wrong, very well, but have I then done any wrong?

- b) “And then those God seemingly hasn’t given over to reprobate minds, who’s iniquity is not so full?”
      - 1) Rom 2:4-5 answers this directly
  - iv. 3<sup>rd</sup> objection- “What about us Jews, we at least try to keep the Law, and have the religion and circumcision setting us apart?”
    - a) Rom 2:17-29- Answers this question
      - 1) Possession of the Law doesn’t save
      - 2) Possession of circumcision doesn’t save
      - 3) Possession of the scriptures doesn’t save
    - b) The wrath of God abides on “all”, Jew and gentile alike
  - v. 4<sup>th</sup> objection- “Well then what profit is there in all the Jewish history, and all God’s dealing with them, and the Old Testament, was it all a waste of time?”
    - a) Rom 3:1-8- Answers this question
      - 1) The truth was revealed to them and through them, and that is a great advantage
        - (a) Being born a Jew didn’t save, but it is a great advantage the same as being born to Christian parents won’t save, but is a huge advantage towards salvation
        - (b) Advantages won’t save, but they are still advantages nonetheless
- 4. Paul then sums up his argument in his customary way by proving his message true from the Old Testament scriptures (no less than 8 passages)
- 5. Rom 3:19-20- Summary statement
  - i. All the world guilty before God
    - a) By the Law is the knowledge of sin, and this is a most crucial point in any true evangelism
    - b) A man can only be righteous and live with God by faith, for there is no righteousness to be found among mankind, all deserve wrath and nothing else.
    - c) Righteousness is by faith because there is NO OTHER WAY