**In Christ Alone**

**Pillars of the Christian Faith**

**Sola Fide – Faith Alone**

**Romans 3:28-4:25 and James 2:14-26**

Salvation is by grace alone (Sola Gratia), through faith alone (Sola Fide), in Christ alone (Solus Christus) to the Glory of God alone (Soli Deo Gloria) understood based on the Scriptures alone (Sola Scriptura).

“All, therefore, were glorified and magnified, not through themselves or their own works or the righteous actions which they did, but through his will in Christ Jesus, are not justified through ourselves or through our wisdom or understanding or piety or works, which we have done in holiness of heart, but through faith, by which the almighty God has justified all who have existed from the beginning, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Clement 32:3-4, written AD 96)

“He did not hate us, or reject us, or bear a grudge against us; instead he was patient and forbearing; in his mercy, he took upon himself our sins; he himself gave up his own Son as a ransom for us, the holy one for the lawless, the guiltless for the guilty, ‘the just for the unjust,’ the incorruptible for the corruptible, the immortal for the moral. For what else but his righteousness could have covered our sins? In whom was it possible for us, the lawless and ungodly, to be justified, except in the Son of God alone? O the sweet exchange, O the incomprehensible work of God, O the unexpected blessings, that the sinfulness of many should be hidden in one righteous man, while the righteousness of one should justify many sinners!”

Sola fide means that salvation comes by looking to Christ in faith and being given the righteousness of Christ rather than looking to our own works of righteousness for rescue. Sola fide was a claim that justification came by faith.

2 truths about Sola Fide that encourage our faith and motivate us to faithful action

**I. We are Justified by Sola Fide – Faith Alone (Romans 3:28-4:25)**

Justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares the sinner to be righteous.

A. Both Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith (Romans 3:28-31)

**Romans 3:28-31 -** *For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one. Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.*

B. Abraham proves that justification was, is, and will be by faith (Romans 4:1-3)

**Romans 4:1-3 -** *What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

**Galatians 3:6-9 -** *Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.*

C. The joy of imputed righteousness (Romans 4:4-15)

**Romans 4:4-15 -** *Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered. “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.” Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.” How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised. For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.*

**Romans 5:18-19 -** *So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21 -** *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

D. The proper understanding of faith (Romans 4:16-25)

**Romans 4:16-25 -** *For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (as it is written, “A father of many nations have I made you”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

**Hebrews 11:1 -** *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Faith = the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen

Justification = the judicial act whereby God declares a sinner to be righteous

Righteousness = God imputing the righteousness of Christ to us so that we are now seen through the righteousness of Christ rather than our sin.

**II. Sola Fide – Faith Alone Shows it’s Real by Good Deeds (James 2:14-26)**

**Matthew 7:21-23 -** *Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”*

A. Sola Fide is different than intellectual ascent (James 2:14-17)

**James 2:14-17 -** *What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.*

B. Sola Fide shows its genuineness in what it does (James 2:18-26)

**James 2:18-26 -** *But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*

Works = the actions I take in order to demonstrate that I trust Christ and I want to follow him.

**Take Aways**

#1. To give thanks for a great salvation.

#2. To remember that assurance of salvation comes from the Lord saving me.

#3. To actively pursue Christ in every aspect of life.