

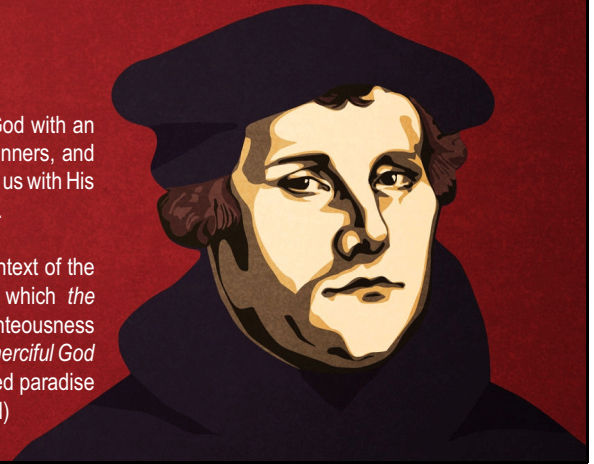
# THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

Text: Galatians 3

"Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. ...I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously...I was angry with God...[that He should] threaten... us with His righteousness and wrath! Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience....

"At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words.... There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which *the righteous lives by a gift of God*, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, *the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith*.... Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."

– Martin Luther (emphasis added)



## I. ARGUMENTS FROM EXPERIENCE (vs. 1-5)

**6 rhetorical questions intended to make the reader think**

"who has bewitched you?" (vs. 1), "are you so foolish?" (vs. 3), and "did you suffer in vain?" (vs. 4)

"did you receive the Spirit by works or by faith?" (vs. 2), and "are you now being perfected by the flesh?" (vs. 3)

"So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?" (vs. 5)

## II. ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE (vs. 6-14)

**6 Old Testament quotes intended to establish the biblical authority in this question**

### A. Illustrated by Abraham's Faith

vs. 6 - "Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS" (from Genesis 15:6)

vs. 8 - "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU" (from Genesis 12:3, 18:8, and 22:18)

vs. 10 - "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM" (from Deuteronomy 27:26)

### B. Established as Justification by Faith

vs. 11a - "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" (from Habakkuk 2:4)

vs. 11b - "live by them" (Lev. 18:5)

vs. 13 - "hung on a tree" (Deut. 21:23)

**7 references to promise to establish the certainty** (vs. 14, 16, 17, 18 (2x), 22, 29)

### III. ARGUMENTS FROM LEGAL PRACTICE (vs. 15-18) - 3 cases

**3 cases that apply to the question**

- A. Covenant/Contract
- B. Precedent/Continuity
- C. Inheritance

### IV. ARGUMENTS FROM THEOLOGY (vs. 19-25)

**2 lines of reasoning that demonstrate this truth**

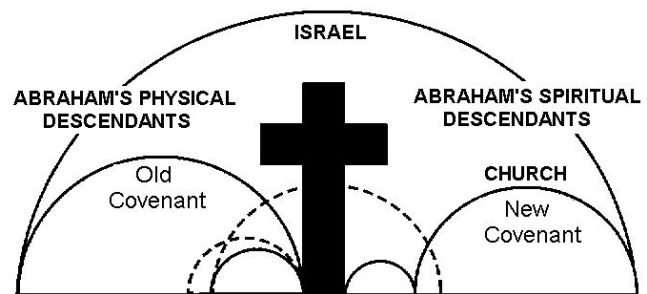
- A. Law

#1 purpose =

#2 purpose =

- B. Promise

#### ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING



**Conclusion:** (vs. 26-29)

Romans 4:16

Galatians 3:6-11

Questions for further study:

- 1) Explain (using Scripture) how the faith of Abraham plays a part in the theological argument here.
- 2) What role does the Mosaic Law play in the question of justification *by faith*?
- 3) Trace the idea of “promise” through Scripture.
- 4) Why, do you think, this text had such a profound effect on Martin Luther?