

Sola Fide, Part 1

Selected Scriptures

- I. The importance of faith
 - A. Faith is the supreme duty of man
 - Hebrews 11:6
 - John 6:28-29
 - John 16:9
 - Romans 14:23
 - B. Christians are called 'Believers':
 - Acts 5:14
 - 1 Timothy 4:12
 - C. All of true Christian experience is through faith:
 - Ephesians 2:8
 - Acts 26:18
 - 1 Peter 1:5
- II. The Scriptural terminology for faith:
 - A. The Old Testament
 - Exodus 17:12
 - B. The New Testament
 - James 2:19
 - John 2, 3, 4
 - John 5:35
 - John 3:16, 36
 - Acts 16:31

III. The nature of saving faith

A. The elements of saving faith

1. Knowledge of facts
Romans 10:17
Acts 17:24-31
1 Corinthians 15:1-5
1 John 5:20
2. Assent to this knowledge
Hebrews 11:6
Cf. Acts 8;13, 21
3. A personal appropriation of the Savior

B. The efficacy of faith

1. Faith itself does not save
James 2:19
2. Technically speaking, faith in Christ is not salvific, but Christ saves an individual through faith.
3. Faith is correctly understood, then, as the agency or the means through which Christ saves people

IV. The object of faith

A. The ultimate object of faith is the God of grace

- John 12:44
Romans 4:24

- B. The immediate object of faith: Jesus Christ
John 3:16, 36
Acts 16:31

- C. The objective medium or agency of faith: God's Word or God's revelation
John 5:39

- D. Faith ultimately is grounded in hearing and responding to the preached Christ of the Bible. This means to believe the gospel:
Romans 10:17

- E. To direct faith to Christ thus is to believe in God:
John 14:1

V. The origin of faith

- A. Negatively:
 - 1. Faith is not merely the product of empirical, sense experience:
1 Peter 1:8
2 Corinthians 5:7
Matthew 16:17

 - 2. Faith is not merely the product of historical evidence and apologetics:
Acts 26:26-28

 - 3. Faith is not merely the product of human reason:

1 Corinthians 1:21

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

B. Positively:

1. It is given of God

Philippians 1:29

2. Faith is included in the gift of salvation

Ephesians 2:8

2 Thessalonians 2:13

C. Faith is nevertheless the supreme duty and responsibility of man:

Acts 16:31

Hebrews 11:6

Romans 14:23

D. Conclusion

VI. The growth of faith

A. The fact that faith grows:

2 Thessalonians 1:3

2 Corinthians 10:15

B. The avenue of increasing faith

1 Peter 2:2

VII. The evidences of faith

A. A subjective witness

1 John 5:10

2 Timothy 1:12

B. Confession of Christ as Lord

Romans 10:10

1 Corinthians 12:3b

C. The work of faith

Galatians 5:6

James 2:17, 26

D. Prescribed works or duties as the fruit of faith

Ephesians 2:10

E. A continuance in faith

John 8:31

1 Corinthians 15:2

2 John 9

F. Obedience

Romans 1:5

Romans 15:18-19

1 Peter 1:2; 4:17

Hebrews 5:9

VIII. The assurance of faith

A. The eternal promise of God which is unconditional

Hebrews 6:13-20

B. The internal witness of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:16-17

1 John 5:7-12

C. The evidence of a changed life

1 John 2:3-5

IX. Faith as the sole agency of salvation

Cf. Galatians 2:16

Titus 3:5

A. Biblical texts which teach that we are saved by Christ through faith alone (sola fide):

Acts 16:31

John 1:12

Ephesians 2:8

Romans 3:22,26

B. Biblical texts which utilize repentance alone as a synonym for the sole agency of faith:

Luke 24:47

Acts 17:30

Romans 2:4

2 Peter 3:9

1. Repentance and faith can be placed together to show the full horizon of meaning in the effective means through which Christ saves:

Acts 20:21

C. Repentance is often linked with the fruit of saving faith in evangelistic appeals in the Bible.