

Theme: God declares us to be righteous, not because of our works, but because of the work of Christ in our behalf, which we receive through faith alone.

I. Intro – Tetsel Selling Indulgences

- A. Clip from *Luther*
- B. How is man justified before God?
- C. Can we buy or earn salvation?

II. Four Key Words/Concepts – Two Paths

- A. Justified – legal declaration – 2:11-16; Dt 25:1; Rom 8:33-34
 - 1. BDAG – defined as legal term – see endnote
 - 2. Gal 2:11; Dt 25:1 – same rare word for condemned
 - 3. Rom 8:33-34 – justified opp. of condemned
 - 4. New relation to God – acquitted before him
- B. Works of law – any good works, done to earn favor
 - 1. Religious works – Gal 5:2-4; 2:12; 4:10
 - 2. Moral lifestyle – Romans 2:17-24
 - 3. Key idea – motive to earn favor – 2:16; 5:4-5
 - 4. Two opposed ways – Christ/faith vs law/works – 2:16, 21
- C. Christ – His work basis/ground
 - 1. πίστεως Χριστοῦ - faithfulness of Christ – 2:16; Phil 3:9

2. Probably not, but still valid – “from God” – Phil 3:9; 2 Cor 5:21

3. Faith is in Christ – not faith! – 2:16

D. Faith – our response of trust – 2:16; 3:6-9; Phil 3:9

1. We receive Christ’s work by faith – 2:16

2. This has always been the way – Gal 3:6-9

3. Faith is opposite of self-reliance – Phil 3:9

III. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see two mutually exclusive paths to justification?
 - 1. Path one – personal merit/based on law/through works
 - 2. Path two – grace/based on Christ/through faith
 - 3. Mutually exclusive – Gal 2:21; 5:2-5; Phil 3:7-8
- B. Which path are you on?
 - 1. Are you trusting in your own works?
 - 2. Do you think your works can add anything?
 - 3. Have you forsaken all other hopes but Christ?

Justification by Faith Alone

Galatians 2:15-16

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Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

BDAG on δικαιόω - be acquitted, be pronounced and treated as righteous

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood **condemned**. Galatians 2:11 NASB

1 If there is a dispute between men and they go to court, and the judges decide their case, and they justify the righteous and **condemn** the wicked Deuteronomy 25:1 NASB

33 Who will **bring any charge** against those whom God has chosen? It is God who **justifies**. 34 Who is he that **condemns**? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:33-34

17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you **rely on the law** and brag about your relationship to God; 18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the **law**; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the **law** the embodiment of knowledge and truth-- 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you **steal**? 22 You who say that people should not commit **adultery**, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you **rob** temples? 23 You who brag about the **law**, do you dishonor God by breaking the **law**? 24 As it is written: "**God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.**" Romans 2:17-24

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through **faith in Christ**-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:9

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7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ**-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:7-9