

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 12, 2017

This Week's Focus: The Five Solas of the Reformation: *Sola Fide*

This Week's Text: Romans 3:19-4:5; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:19-21

"I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the 'justice of God' had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love."

Martin Luther

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Read Romans 3:10, 19-4:5 together. What does this passage teach us about ourselves? What does it teach us about God? Based on this text and your own experience, what are some ways we try to earn favor with God? If we can't be saved by God's law, what is it good for? Reference Romans 3:20, Romans 7:7-8, Galatians 3:21-26.
- Justification is the act of God by which he judicially declares sinners to be righteous by grace alone because of Christ alone. What is the difference between the Roman Catholic teaching of *infused* righteousness and the biblical teaching of *imputed* righteousness? How do each of these positions practically play out?
- What is *faith*? Discuss how faith is only as sturdy as its object. How does Abraham's life (referenced in Romans 4:1-5, 22-25) illustrate that we are saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone? How does Abraham's life also illustrate the reality of a changed life by God's grace alone through faith alone? Reference James 2:1-24. Share some ways grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone has changed/impacted your life.

- What's the difference between the status/position of justification and the process of sanctification. What are ways we can actively contribute to our sanctification (growth in practical holiness)?
- How does God remain just by extending grace to undeserving sinners? Reference Romans 3:23-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- Name some people in your life that you want to see come to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for them together, and discuss ways to help guide them to the question, "How can I be forgiven and reconciled to God?"