

## Martin Luther and Justification by Faith

### His life

- 1483 Born
- 1501 Luther begins study at University of Erfurt
- 1502 Receives Baccalaureate in the Liberal Arts
- 1505 Receives Master of Arts; plans for law school
- 1505 Caught in a thunderstorm, pledges to become a monk
- 1505 Enters Augustinian monastery at Erfurt
- 1506 Takes monastic vows
- 1507 Ordained priest
- 1512 Begins work as Professor of Theology at University of Wittenburg
- 1514 Becomes priest of Wittenberg's City Church
- 1517 October 31- Posts 95 Theses on the castle church door
- 1518-20 Inquisition on Luther in Rome
- 1520 Papal bull Exsurge Domine issued (June 15)
- 1520 Luther burns bull and canon law with students
- 1521 Excommunicated in Rome
- 1521 Diet of Worms
- 1521 Kidnapped and taken to Wartburg Castle
- 1546 Death

### Justification by Faith Alone

*"This doctrine is the head and the cornerstone. It alone begets, nourishes, builds, preserves, and defends the church of God; and without it the church of God cannot exist for one hour."*

*"Whoever departs from the article of justification does not know God and is an idolater . . . For when this article has been taken away, nothing remains but error, hypocrisy, godlessness, and idolatry, although it may seem to be the height of truth, worship of God, holiness, etc."*

*"If the article of justification is lost, all Christian doctrine is lost at the same time."*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? (Psa 130:3)

"The righteous shall live by faith." (Rom 1:17)

### The Roman Catholic view of justification

“Justification is not only the remission of sins, but also the sanctification and renewal of the interior man.”

- There are two steps to justification
  - o The first (initial) justification occurs at baptism, which eradicates both the guilt and corruption of original sin. Grace is infused into the person and is now inherent (this is grace alone).
  - o Final justification is the result of cooperating with this inherent grace. By doing so, additional grace is merited. (This is grace PLUS works)
    - Grace can be lost when you commit a mortal sin
    - Grace can be restored through penance

*Council of Trent: Condemned the concept of justification by faith alone as “another gospel.”*

### Luther’s view of justification

- Justification is distinct from sanctification. It is not a process of transformation from a condition of sinfulness to a state of justice.
- Believers are “simultaneously just and sinner.” (*simul iustus et peccator*)
- Any works performed by the believer will fall short of the righteousness that God’s law requires; nevertheless, believers are accepted as fully righteous already through faith in Christ.
- Justification is a forensic declaration.
- Sanctification is necessarily a part of the Christian life, but is distinct from justification.

### Justification by faith alone is biblical

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (Rom 3:28)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:1)

<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Rom 5:9)

"Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith." (Gal 3:4)

“...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith...” (Phil 3:9)

### Imputed righteousness, not infused righteousness

“Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:18-19)

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor 5:21)