

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

Romans 1:8-17

"Faith consists of three elements. First, it consists of knowledge. It is no mere attitude of mind; it involves content. We must have faith in 'something.' In the case of salvation that content (and the object of our knowledge) is the revelation of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

Second, faith consists of a heart response to the gospel. This is because faith is not assent to some principle that is true but nevertheless has little relationship to us. It involves the love of God for us in saving us through the death of Jesus Christ, his Son. Unless this touches our hearts and moves them, we do not really understand the gospel.

Finally, faith consist of commitment, commitment to Christ. At this point, Jesus becomes not merely a Savior in some abstract sense or even someone else's Savior, but my Savior. Like Thomas, I now gladly confess him to be "my Lord and My God" (John 20:28)." James Boice

- I. Through God, a genuine faith is meant to become an attractive expression of the power of the gospel to those in desperate need of God's righteousness through the gospel. In fact, God uses those who live the gospel well to be an encouragement for others to live the gospel well.

Rom. 1:8-15

2 Cor. 10:3-5

1 Jn. 5:4

Phil. 1:27 *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

- A. When the gospel is lived well and made attractive through a sincere relationship with Christ, the body of Christ will have a strong desire to encourage and minister to one another through the power of prayer and the use of the grace gifts God has given to each and every one of his sons and daughters upon salvation.

Rom. 1:8-13

- B. Genuine faith like that of Paul and the believers in Rome, isn't to be a mutually exclusive thing that stays bottled up in our hearts safe and secure and absolutely worthless in its influence upon others. It is to compel us to express the gospel to others by what we say and do.

Rom. 1:14-15
1 Cor. 1:26-31

2 Cor. 5:14-15, 19b-20a For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again... And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

- II. The theme of the book of Romans centers on being made right with God by the righteousness he offers through his Son, Jesus Christ. Those of us who have been made righteous through faith in the gospel are to confidently display, express and live God's grace well from the beginning of our salvation to when he calls us home to be with him forever and ever.

Rom. 1:16-17
Rom. 3:21-22

δικαιοσύνη dikaiosýnē = righteousness State of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God. The doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting. Strong's

ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστις = (literally, "out of faith into faith" or "by faith, from beginning to end")