

SOLA FIDE (FAITH ALONE), PT. 1; PHIL. 3:1 (Ed O'Leary)

DON'T PRAY FIRST. ~~ INTRODUCTION.

THIS MORNING WE TURN TO THE NEXT SECTION OF PHILIPPIANS, ~ 3:1-11.

▶▶ But before we dig into this paragraph, ~ we're going to lay a solid foundation in order for us to get a better handle on the meat of this passage.

▷▷ Longer intro than normal

↪↪ And after building the foundation, ~ we'll look at verse 1. ~~ Where headed today.

LET'S PRAY BEFORE WE BUILD THIS FOUNDATION & LOOK AT VERSE 1

SOLA FIDE IS A LATIN PHRASE MEANING "FAITH ALONE." ~~ (Latin & history lesson)

▶▶ Sola fide is one of the five solas that came to define and summarize the key issues of the Protestant Reformation. ~~ The Latin word sola means "alone" or "only."

▶▶ And the essential Christian doctrines represented by these five Latin phrases accurately summarize the biblical teaching on these crucial subjects.

▷▷ Solus Christus, ~ Christ alone, ~ emphasizes the role of Jesus in salvation.

▷▷ Sola scriptura, ~ Scripture alone, ~ emphasizes the Bible alone as the source of authority for Christians.

▷▷ Soli Deo gloria, ~ for the glory of God alone, ~ emphasizes the glory of God as the goal of life.

▷▷ Sola fide, ~ which we just mentioned and will look at a little more closely in a minute since it's directly related to [3:1-11](#).

▷▷ And Sola gratia, ~ grace alone, ~ emphasizes grace as the reason for our salvation.

↪↪ IOW, ~ salvation comes from what God has done rather than what we do.

→→ [Eph. 2:1-7](#)

SOLA FIDE IS THE SUMMARY OF THE BIBLICAL TEACHING THAT A PERSON IS declared righteous or justified by God on the basis of our faith alone and not by works or anything else.

▶▶ Coupled with sola gratia, ~ grace alone, ~ we hold that justification before God is an act of God's grace which can only be received through faith in Jesus Christ.

▷▷ Eph. 2:8, ~ "For by grace ~ [i.e., ~ by God's free and undeserved favor] ~ you have been saved ~ [and here's how we receive it:] ~ ¶¶

↳↳ through faith ~ [faith in Jesus is the channel by which one receives God's free and undeserved favor and is saved]."

▷▷ Paul continues, ~ "And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." ~ I.e., ~ "this salvation is not from you as a source; ~ it is the gift from God." ~ We not source

▷▷ No good work or righteous deeds, ~ or anything done on our part, ~ will allow us to earn salvation. ~ Filthy rags.

▷▷ Accomplishments and social status will not allow us to earn salvation. ~ Performing religious rituals will not allow us to get into heaven.

▷▷ But instead we put our faith in Christ as our only means of salvation.

▶▶ And it is faith alone, ~ not faith plus works or faith plus something.

↳↳ I.e., ~ it's not, ~ "To be saved, ~ believe in Jesus, ~ but you also must do this."

▶▶ No. ~ It's faith alone ~ in Jesus alone. ~ One mediator ~ No other name

FAITH ALONE, ~ IN JESUS ALONE. ~ BUT WHAT DO WE MEAN BY FAITH? ~ SAVING faith.

▶▶ In Rom 10:9, ~ NIV ~ Paul makes it clear that it is a heart response to hearing the content of the message of the gospel.

▷▷ "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

▶▶ In this respect, ~ it is an accepting response to God's revelation about himself through Jesus Christ.

▶▶ This includes an acknowledgment of who Jesus is, ~ an admission of one's sinfulness, ~ and a recognition, ~ sincere belief, ~ and acceptance that, ~ as Paul puts it in 1 Cor. 15:3b-4, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. ¶¶ 2/6

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE CLEAR ABOUT THIS.

▶▶ Millions of people today are trusting in their religion to get them into heaven.

▷▷ They may think that practicing their religion and its rituals will get them into heaven.

▷▷ They believe that just because they were baptized as an infant (or as a child or as a teenager or as an adult) that they are going to heaven.

▷▷ They think that church attendance or receiving communion will get them into heaven.

▷▷ They think that just because they are a member of a particular denomination or religion that they're going to heaven.

↪↪ List could go on & on.

▷▷ These things will not get anyone into heaven. ~~ They're rubbish.

↪↪ Only saving faith in Jesus Christ, ~ and in Jesus Christ alone, ~ will get a person into heaven.

↪↪ When a person dies and stands before God, ~ he will not look for religious things from that person's life. ~~ Will not say

→→ God will look for one, ~ and only one, ~ thing, ~ whether or not that person is clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, ~ his beloved Son.

▶▶ We need to understand two things from this.

▷▷ 1st, ~ these people who are trusting in their religion and all that goes with it ~ are lost, ~ in bondage, ~ and need the light of the true gospel, ~ the gospel of Jesus Christ, ~ to set them free.

▷▷ The 2nd thing we need to understand is this. ~~ Satan loves religion. ~~ And he will give people as much religion as they want, ~ as long as it keeps them from Christ.

▷▷ So we need to do all we can to bring the true gospel into their lives.

▶▶ In addition to millions of people trusting in their religion and all its trappings, ~ many people have a "faith + something else."

▷▷ They're trusting in Christ + baptism, ~~ or Christ + going to church, ~~ or Christ + church membership, ~~ or Christ + giving money ~~ or Christ + good works. 📌 3/6

▷▷ They love to sing that old gospel song: ~ “Jesus paid almost all of it” ~ Q/Unquote, ~ because they think they’ve got to add their part to what Jesus did.

↪↪ The hymn actually and correctly is entitled, ~ Jesus Paid It All.

→→ And the chorus says, ~ “Jesus paid it all, ~ All to Him I owe; ~ Sin had left a crimson stain, ~ He washed it white as snow.”

▷▷ But what about things like baptism, ~ attending church, ~ church membership, ~ giving money, ~ and good works?

↪↪ They are all the outflow of salvation

SOLA FIDE, ~ FAITH ALONE.

▶▶ Basically, ~ this is what Paul discusses in this next section of Philipians that we’ll begin to look at today, ~ 3:1-11. ~ Why solid foundation

▷▷ And we’ll develop this theme of “faith alone” as we move through the paragraph.

↪↪ In a nutshell: ~ Presents a warning against false views of salvation, ~ or false gospels, ~ and he also presents the correct view of salvation, ~ or the true gospel.

▶▶ For the remainder of our time, ~ verse 1.

VS. 1 BEGINS W/ AN EXHORTATION TO BELIEVERS. ~ “REJOICE IN THE LORD.”

BASED ON THE CONTEXT, ~ PAUL IS PROBABLY REFERRING TO REJOICING IN WHO Jesus is and what he has done for us. ~ Stresses the continuous action of rejoicing.

▶▶ The idea here seems to be that Paul is calling us to continually be overjoyed about who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

▶▶ I would think that this is easy to do.

▷▷ I say this because when we truly grasp who Jesus is and what he has done for us, ~ incredible joy will just well up and overflow in our hearts.

▶▶ Think about it. ~ “My sin — oh, ~ the bliss of this glorious tho’t! — My sin, ~ not in part, ~ but the whole, ~ Is nailed to the cross ~ and I bear it no more, ~ Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ~ “as far as the east is from the west”

▶▶ How could this truth not cause incredible joy to well up & overflow in our hearts? ↯↯ 4/6

NOW, ~ THE QUESTION COULD ARISE, ~ WHY THIS EXHORTATION HERE?

▶▶ Most likely Paul gives us this exhortation because, ~ when we are continually overjoyed about Jesus and what he has done for us, ~ that will become our focus.

▷▷ I.e., ~ who Jesus is and what he has done for us will become the center of attention.

▶▶ And as a result, ~ we will be less likely to abandon the sound doctrine of sola fide, ~ faith alone.

▷▷ We will not be fooled into believing a false gospel that says a person can be saved through such things as status, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ accomplishments, ~ works, ~ our own righteousness, ~ or religion and its religious rituals.

▷▷ And we will not fall for the false gospel that says to be saved it takes faith + something.

LET'S NOW LOOK AT THE END OF VERSE 1. ~ "TO WRITE THE SAME THINGS TO you is no trouble to me and is safe ~ [i.e., ~ a safeguard] ~ for you."

PHRASE "THE SAME THINGS" REFERS & INTRODUCES WHAT FOLLOWS.

▶▶ **Verses 2-11** are a repetition of teaching that Paul sent in previous letters. ~ As noted, ~ Paul presents a warning against false gospels, ~ and also presents the true gospel.

▶▶ Paul informs them that he never gets tired of telling them these things. ~ And he does it to safeguard their faith.

BASICALLY, ~ I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE TEACHING WHICH PAUL PRESENTS IN 3:2-11, ~ and a regular review of it, ~ will do two things.

▶▶ 1st, ~ will protect us from false gospels, ~ & 2nd, ~ it will ground us in the truth of the true gospel, ~ that a person is saved ~ by grace alone ~ through faith alone ~ in Jesus alone.

▶▶ And since there are many voices out there promoting false views of salvation, ~ we need to carefully study what Paul says here, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and also the whole of what Scripture teaches, ~ about what it takes to have a saving relationship with Jesus.

▶▶ Then it will be highly unlikely we'll be led astray by false these false gospels. ¶¶ 5/6

CONCLUSION.

SOLA FIDE ~~ FAITH ALONE. ~~ FAITH AONE IN JESUS ALONE.

▶▶ For nothing good have I ~ Whereby Thy grace to claim; ~~ I'll wash my garments white ~
in the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

▷▷ Jesus paid it all, ~ all to Him I owe; ~~ Sin had left a crimson stain, ~ he washed it
white as snow.

LET'S PRAY 6/6