



Series: What's So Great About Christianity

Passage Ephesians 2:1-10

Title: *Sola Fide* – Through Faith Alone

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 1/19/2020

Discussion Starter JC defined faith as “God’s work in us to trust Jesus alone for abundant and eternal life”. God is the initiator of our salvation! What is your definition of faith? How did you come to your faith? Looking back, what role did Jesus play in developing your saving faith?

Bad News - Without faith in Jesus we are dead in our sins (Verses 1-3)

- What does it mean to be “dead in trespasses”? What ability does a “dead” person have to change their circumstances?
- Who is the “prince of the power of the air”? What is the result of the prince’s influence on us? What does it mean to be “children of wrath”? Consider what it means to implicitly follow this prince? Why does Paul use the word “by nature” in verse 3? (See Romans 3:10-20)
- Why does Jesus require an explicit choice to follow him?

Good News - By grace alone God chose us before the foundation of the world (Verses 4-7)

- God chose to love us even though we had rejected him. Why would he do this? How do you feel when another person rejects you? How do you usually respond to when this happens to you? How did Jesus respond when He was rejected?
- God loves us all. What characteristics of God are apparent in these verses?

We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ Alone (Verses 8-9)

- Why is it so difficult to accept God’s gift of salvation? Why does Paul instruct us not to boast?
- God’s love is manifest in the gospel message. What did Abraham do to receive God’s favor? What did God promise Abraham? How does this apply to us? How is this like a life jacket (per JC)?

We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Verses 8-9)

- Why does Paul instruct us not to boast? Consider what this means to you, personally. What traits has God given you that makes you feel like boasting (intelligence, strength, success, looks)?
- Obedience is not a requirement for salvation; obedience is a natural response to God’s love for us. What role do we have in helping others understand God’s love? (See Romans 10:14-17)

Faith produces forward progress and Fruit of the Spirit (Verse 10)

- As believers we are no longer “dead in our trespasses” Read Galatians 2:20, Romans 5:1-2 and Ephesians 3:12. Describe in your own words what these verses about reveal to us about our new life as the workmanship of Christ.
- Why did God choose faith alone in Jesus Christ for Salvation? Read Romans 1:16-17. How should this encourages us, as saints and ambassadors of Christ, to reach the lost?