

# October Newsletter 2017

To Know Christ,  
To Make Him Known,  
To Build His Kingdom.

From The Pastor's Desk:

This month we are mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Just last weekend we had a great Reformation Conference, although it was not exactly the one we planned, it was glorious just the same. Then on Sunday we discussed the Doctrine of Justification; specifically, how it necessitates we not place our trust in our Righteousness, but only in Christ. Luther famously said, "Justification is the doctrine on which the church stands or falls". Below are benefits of understanding this important doctrine. These thoughts are a summary of Thomas Schreiner's book Faith Alone.

## 1. Justification by faith alone kills pride.

According to the apostle Paul, justification by faith alone excludes human boasting:

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (Rom. 3:27–28)

To be justified by faith alone is to be justified apart from human obedience, works, or worth. This means that Christians have nothing to take pride in, nothing to boast of, nothing to glory in except God. In justification by faith alone, God gets all the glory because God is the one who saves. In fact, when Paul explains justification by faith alone, it is against the backdrop of universal, human sinfulness (Rom. 3:9–20). This kills pride.

## 2. Justification by faith alone gives assurance.

According to the apostle Paul, justification by faith alone gives confidence in God. He calls it peace. He describes the Christian state as one of rejoicing:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom. 5:1–2)

We who trust in Christ alone for salvation are justified by faith alone, and as the justified, we can have assurance. Our salvation does not depend upon our works, efforts, or good intentions, but on God alone, and this salvation is secure in Christ. Because it depends upon God alone who is faithful, we can have assurance that no matter what life looks like, or feels like, God will keep his promise to save us. Justification by faith alone gives assurance.

## 3. Justification by faith alone makes the Christian life possible.

According to the apostle Paul, justification by faith alone leads to a life of worship:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your Spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom. 12:1–2)

Martin Luther famously said, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Martin Luther wrote The Freedom of a Christian in 1520 after having come to a clear understanding of justification by faith alone, and then having to defend it.

The charge was, and always is, that justification by faith alone creates lazy people who are free to live as they please with complete disregard for holiness. Martin Luther argues the case that it is Christians—who no longer strive to merit salvation—who are actually free to do good. He draws upon the apostle Paul's own reasoning in the book of Romans, which, after teaching justification by faith alone, continues to explain the work of the Holy Spirit and good works in the life of a Christian.

#### 4. Justification by faith alone is true.

Justification by faith alone only matters if it's true. The apostle Paul is very clear:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Rom. 3:23-25)

You won't find the words "faith alone" in Scripture, but you will find the meaning. Every time Scripture contrasts faith and works, law and gospel, grace and condemnation, Paul is teaching that justification is received by faith alone and that salvation is a free gift.

*Grace and Peace*

*Pastor Jason Ford*

### Sunday Morning Schedule

#### Worship Service

9:30 am Worship Service ~

Nursery Available

10:30 am Fellowship &

Youth Devotional and Fellowship

11:00 am Worship Service

Nursery Available,

Children's Ministry

(second half of worship service)

For ages 4 years ~ 6<sup>th</sup> grade

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

**Bible Study does not meet on the first Wednesday of the month.**

#### Adult Bible Study

In the Sanctuary at 7:00 **A Study on the Book of Romans.** Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible study. Pastor Jason is teaching. Child care available.

## EA Convocation Report

I bring you greetings from the National Board of the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. We had a great meeting looking into the future of the EA and to what it means to be EA. I have been tasked with joining the Strategic Planning committee to help answer that very question. We also began discussions about next year's Convocation which will be happening at First Protestant in New Braunfels. Daryl Higgins mentioned that he would like for St. Paul to be involved with helping carry that out.

The Convocation this year was held at Beck's Reformed Church in Lexington, NC. Lexington is a beautiful town known for their barbeque and hospitality (both were excellent). Each of the main speakers were engaging, encouraging and helpful. All were based on the theme "Let Light Shine Out of Darkness". Our first two speakers were on Friday afternoon. Stan Hankins spoke first. He is a missionary in Hawaii, and did a wonderful job encouraging all of us on how we might share the Light of the gospel. Robby Dilmore (Radio host for "The Christian Car Guy") shared his testimony. He was both funny and profound as he explained how his life has been and continues to be radically altered by God's Grace. Friday concluded with a fantastic message from one of our board members Rev. C.E. Holt. C.E. is the pastor of one of our African American churches and even though he was recovering from an afternoon of dialysis he preached a passionate message.

On Saturday Clinton Faupel shared his ministry with us. Clinton is involved in a technology based program to reach young people at risk of committing suicide. All they need do is text 494949 and they will be able to immediately be in contact with a "soul paramedic" who gently and intentionally points them to the hope they can have in Christ. He has been invited into schools all over the country to discuss mental health and provide opportunities for students to use his resources. His ministry is called Remedy Live and you can check it out at [RemedyLive.com](http://RemedyLive.com). After our breakout sessions

we worshipped on Saturday night with Dr. Gary Neal Hansen who pointed us at how we might "Pray like a Reformer". The evening ended as we took communion together using Chalices from several different EA churches.

I enjoy the opportunity to go to Convocation each year and I hope you will join us next year in New Braunfels as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EA! Thanks for once again letting me go!

## Fall Festival

Everyone is invited to join us Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul Evangelical Church for an old-fashioned Fall Festival from 4pm-7pm. We will have food, a bake off, inflatables, and a special concert performance by Eurofest! Kids of all ages are encouraged to dress up in your favorite costume. This is a FREE EVENT and a great opportunity to invite friends! Sign-up to bring side dishes and there are flyers available with the bake-off guidelines in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring donations of individually wrapped candy as well. Questions? Email Stephanie at [stephanie@stpaulcibolo.com](mailto:stephanie@stpaulcibolo.com).

## Upcoming Events

1908 Night ~ Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm. Ladies are invited to come enjoy fellowship at the new 1908 House of Wine & Ale.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship ~ Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. Outing to Silver Tree.

Theology on Tap ~ October 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Locations to be announced soon.

Cibolo Fest ~ Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 10 pm. We will have a booth in front of the church from 10 am to 6 pm.

The Sewing Sisters ~ October 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.  
They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the

month in the parsonage from 9-11 am. All are welcome to come and enjoy good fellowship and ministry.

Council Meeting ~ Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Fall Fest ~ Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm.

## General Announcements

### Newly Elected Officers for 2017-2018

The church elected the following for new terms as members of the Council.

Elders: Larry B, Jr. and David S

Deacons: Myrna and Justin S

Trustees: Mark H and Mac M

Liturgy Sign Up ~ If you would like to contribute to the worship service by reading the liturgy, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway.

Ushers and Greeters ~ If you can help usher on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Service Opportunity ~ If you are looking for a way to serve the church and like working with computers, we have the perfect spot for you. The A/V Team runs the computer and sound for the service on Sunday mornings. You would be able to serve the church and not miss worship. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two, to find out what all is involved. For more information, please contact Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at [BethJ@StPaulCibolo.com](mailto:BethJ@StPaulCibolo.com).

SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach  
Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. Donations as well as volunteers are always welcome. Please see Rich A, Don & Marion D, or Willie & Ann S.

Women's Fellowship Recycled Card Program

~ In Support for St. Jude's Children's Homes ~ Used greeting cards, front cover only, can be dropped off in the designated box located in the Fellowship Hall. They will then be sent to St. Jude's Children's Home, for use by Kids' Corp. The children participate in making the new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them. For information on purchasing of cards go to [http://www.stjudesranch.org/help\\_card.php](http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php).

Prayer Team ~ If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Pastor Willie S your e-mail address or phone number.

Women's Fellowship Cookbooks Available  
The cookbooks are available in the church office or after church in the Fellowship Hall. They are \$15.00 each and have over 800 recipes. They would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

**GREAT NEWS!! RACAP** now has a new drop off location for nonperishable food donations!! Schertz Cibolo Emergency Clinic, 4825 FM 3009, Ste. 200 Schertz, TX 78154, On 3009 next to Bush's Chicken.

**R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs ~ Urgent Need ~**  
Tomato Products (Paste, Sauce, Diced, etc.) / Canned Pasta with Meat (Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti w/ meatballs, etc.) / Canned Fruits / Meat Helpers / Peanut Butter & Jelly / Canned Soups / Macaroni & Cheese / Canned Meats / Cereal (both hot and cold) / Canned Sweet Peas / **TOILET PAPER!!**

**Reminder: Due to health regulations R.A.C.A.P. is not allowed to accept any donations that are not in their original container or have been opened.**

## Holiday Meal Baskets

Even though the weather outside tells us it is definitely still summer, RACAP must prepare well in advance to provide our clients with a Holiday Meal Basket for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas and gifts for children. A Sponsor form is available in the office if you are interested in signing up to sponsor a family or

families. Completed Sponsor applications should be returned to RACAP before October 27, 2017. Call the office, at 658-1613, or email [racapholidayprog@att.net](mailto:racapholidayprog@att.net), with any questions.

## Holiday Meal Basket Program

Please help RACAP fill their Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

### Items Needed:

Chicken broth / Flour / Granulated Sugar (4 lb. bag) / Brown Sugar (1 lb.) / Evaporated Milk / Stuffing Mix / Canned Pumpkin / Yams / Fruit Cocktail / Cranberry Sauce / Corn and Green Beans. Donated funds will be used to purchase turkeys and perishable items for the baskets. If you are sponsoring a family, the basket should also include eggs, margarine/butter, pie shells, celery, onions, potatoes, rolls/bread and the turkey.

**Notification of Events** - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to [admin@stpaulcibolo.com](mailto:admin@stpaulcibolo.com) with a notation for e-mail alerts.

If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23rd of the month and if you need an announcement put into the bulletin, the cutoff date is Tuesday of that week at noon.

Church Office Hours ~ Monday - Friday  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

## Heidelberg Catechism

**LORD'S DAY 50**

**125 Q. WHAT DOES THE FOURTH REQUEST MEAN?**

**A.** Give us this day our daily bread means, Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and to put trust in you alone.

**LORD'S DAY 51**

**126 Q. WHAT DOES THE FIFTH REQUEST MEAN?**

**A.** *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors* means, Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.

**LORD'S DAY 52**

**127 Q. WHAT DOES THE SIXTH REQUEST MEAN?**

**A.** *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil* means, By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies- the devil, the world, and our own flesh-never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

**128 Q. WHAT DOES YOUR CONCLUSION TO THIS PRAYER MEAN?**

**A.** *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever* means, We have made all these requests of you because, as our all-powerful king, you not only want to, but are able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

**129 Q. WHAT DOES THAT LITTLE WORD "AMEN" EXPRESS?**

**A.** *Amen* means, This is sure to be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer, than that I really desire what I pray for.

Read Through the Bible in a Year program from Tabletalk daily devotional

(Tabletalk is \$23/year and can be ordered at 1-800-435-4343)

October

Old Testament: Isaiah 24 - Jeremiah 30

New Testament: Ephesians 4- Titus 1

November

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31 – Ezekiel 44

New Testament: Titus 2 – 2 Peter 2

**St. Paul Staff**

Jason Ford, Pastor

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**Serving the Lord since 1876**

A mission-focused, kingdom-building family of Christ-followers seeking to be faithful to Jesus' Great Commission {Go and make disciples ...} Matthew 28:19 and His Great Commandment {Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.}

Luke 10:27