



IMPLICATIONS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

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NOVEMBER 11 & 14, 2021

NOTES:

1. **Believers** have no reason to **brag** about themselves. (vs. 27-28)

Ephesians 2:8-10

2. God is **God**, whether we **believe** it or not. (vs. 29-30)

Isaiah 44:6

Philippians 3:8-9

3. **Believers** need to obey **God's** commands. (vs. 31)

John 14:15

James 2:14-19

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

REVIEW:

1. Last week Jeff challenged us to reflect the glory of God because we have been declared righteous (justified) by the gift of faith in Jesus. How did your good works bring glory to God this week?

THIS WEEK'S SERMON:

1. Thomas started off his sermon by providing a brief overview of Paul's original audience. It was a very diverse group. Let's zoom forward to today's audience. What are the challenges we face when presenting the gospel to a very diverse culture – even in the United States?
- I. BELIEVERS HAVE NO REASON TO BRAG ABOUT THEMSELVES. (VS. 27-28)
1. In today's social media world, boasting and bragging is commonplace. How does social media feed our vanity and sinful desire to brag on self? How susceptible are you to this? What are some ways that we're tempted to brag about ourselves?
 2. Let's take a look at some healthy boasts in the following passages. Where is the focus? How can we model these forms of boasting?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:29-31
 - 2 Corinthians 10:17
 - 2 Corinthians 11:18-12:9
 - Galatians 6:14

II. GOD IS GOD, WHETHER WE BELIEVE IT OR NOT. (VS. 29-30)

1. Divide your group and have each side make a case for agreeing or disagreeing to this statement: "Christians believe that their God is the only real one."
2. "Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of a man, as a devout, earnest, continual investigation of the great subject of the deity." -Charles Haddon Spurgeon How are we practically and personally challenged by this quote? Do you find encouraging or discouraging the idea that we'll never reach an end (in this life) to our investigation of God?

III. BELIEVERS NEED TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS. (VS. 31)

1. Thomas said, "a workless faith is a worthless faith." Think back on the last week. What actions were a demonstration of your faith?

We were given three questions to consider as a response to the three implications of justification by faith in this passage.

1. Do you brag about you or Jesus? How might you intentionally brag on Jesus this week?
2. Do you believe in Jesus? Our actions reveal our true beliefs, so how can you cultivate your core beliefs in Jesus?
3. If you believe, do you obey? Read the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20. How familiar are you with the actual commands of Jesus? How would you assess your actual obedience to this command? What changes could you make?