

## Romans 1:16~17

The *just shall live by faith*... 6 of the most profound words ever spoken...

These words are a quote that Paul takes from the **Book of Habakkuk** 2:4...

<sup>4</sup>Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

**JUST**... carries the meaning of *innocent, holy*...

These 6 words contain the answer to the question...

**Q:** Who are they who are right with God?

A question that ought to make every individual on earth, stop and listen... For there are millions and millions of people across our nation, across the world, who “Think” they are, but are not... Now I only say this, based on the teachings of the “*Gospel of Christ*.”

Listen, if the gospel *is not true*, then all of us here tonight, have no possibility of being right with God.

But if the gospel *is true*, then I have significantly narrowed down the number of people who are “*Truly Right*” with God.

The *just shall live by faith*... Those “*Right with God*” will live by “*Trusting*” in God’s Son Jesus!” That means, that ALL who do not, are not...

But we can’t stop there... There still lies a great danger... And that is being a member of the church, yet not be a member of the body of Christ!

Paul now speaks to the “*manner of Life*” “*the lifestyle*” of the one who is “*right with God*”  
The *just shall live*... “in this manner...”

**Q:** In what manner will they live?  
...by *faith*..... What does it mean to live a life by faith?

That’s a real good question...thank you for asking... There seems to be a real problem with the understanding of many when it comes to “*Faith*” and “*Grace*...”

**Grace is not the freedom to sin...but from sin!**

Beloved, the standard of God is still “*Righteousness*...”

God forbid we think or teach anything else... It amazes me, how anyone could fathom the thought of any less... That faithfulness is an option, that obedience is an option... it is not! God demands Righteousness!

Look what he says about unrighteousness, in the very next verse...

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Peter said... *“be ye holy, for I am holy...”*

1Co. 6:9... <sup>9</sup>Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

Knowing that *“we are sinners,”* and God’s demand is *“Righteous Living..”*

How is it possible, that we be righteous?

**T:** By *changing sources*... ..  
The *just shall live by faith...* is a contrast to those who *live by the law...*

Jesus said... <sup>20</sup>*For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Which speaks to the fact their righteousness was “Self-Righteousness...”

And Paul declares them under the wrath of God!

<sup>18</sup>*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

Paul is speaking of those who “have a knowledge” of the scriptures...

(Romans 10) <sup>1</sup>*Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. <sup>2</sup>For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup>*For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. <sup>5</sup>For Moses describes the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.*

The Jews “*Knew the Scriptures*” better than anyone... But did not know the Christ of them!

<sup>39</sup>Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.** <sup>40</sup>And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. <sup>41</sup>I receive not **honor** from men.

The only hope is a surrendered heart to Christ Jesus...

*The best way to describe living by faith...*

Living by the “*Power*” contained in the “*Gospel of Christ*” that is released into the lives of those who put their “*Trust...*” in it!

Christ in us... the hope of glory!

It is the “*power of God*” that produces “*true righteousness...*” in our lives!

...the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:*

When we put our faith in Christ alone, *His righteousness* is imparted unto to us!  
That is in contrast to the “Righteousness” we produce in keeping of the law!  
Which is not righteousness at all...

For, it is “*Impossible*” for me to produce “*Righteousness!*”

That’s the intended end of the teaching of scripture... Despite how “*Clean*” I may appear to be outwardly, by conforming to the law and commands of God... *All is still unrighteousness*, as Isaiah put it... “*As filthy rags...*” Reason being, it is a product of the flesh! The fallen, depraved, human nature... And that is all it can produce, and all it will ever produce!

We are “*hopelessly*” unrighteous.....We are sinners thru and thru...

That’s why; the “*first step*” in following Jesus **is denying self**...

“*If any man come after me, let him deny himself...take up the cross, and follow me*”

*The best way to describe living by faith...*

Living by the “*Power*” contained in the “*Gospel of Christ*” that **is released** into the lives of those who put their “*Trust...*” in it!

**Christ in us...** God has designed it so...that anyone, who will put their faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, that upon doing so, the “*Holy Spirit of God*” is imparted to us... The power of God! My trust is in the Power of God to keep me, to save me... And he is more than able... I have no doubt, that God is not able to keep me by his power... He’s done it for 14 years...and I’m persuaded he will continue for the rest of my life on earth...