

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: KEY TERMS OF SCRIPTURE

FAITH

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Romans 1:16-17 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

1.) On the basis of the above passages, state the meaning of faith.

Romans 3:21-22 *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*

2.) How can faith save?

Romans 3:28 *For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.*

Romans 4:1-5 *What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.*

3.) Why does the Bible contrast faith and works of the law? How does faith give us the assurance of salvation that works cannot?

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Matthew 28:19-20 *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

John 3:5-6 *Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

Romans 10:17 *Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

4.) How do people come to faith? How does this show that faith is not a good work that we perform?

James 2:19 *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

Romans 10:18-21 *But I ask: Did they [Israel] not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”¹⁹ Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.”²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.”²¹ But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”*

5.) You are sharing the peace and hope you have in Jesus with a coworker, and they respond by saying, “I know that God exists.” How might you respond?

James 2:17-18 *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.*

6.) Explain the following statement: “We are saved by faith alone, but faith is never alone.”

7.) Compare what we have learned today with the following doctrinal statements:

Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must make satisfaction for or expiate his sins. This satisfaction is called penance. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 1459)

This justification is not only forgiveness of sins but also the sanctification and renewal of the inward man through voluntary acceptance of grace and the gifts; hence the man who was unrighteous becomes righteous. (Council of Trent, session VI, chap. 7)

Closing Prayer: *Holy Spirit, faith creator, thank you for leading us to faith in Jesus Christ. Cause us always to fully trust in him for forgiveness and righteousness in your sight. Amen.*

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