

Read *John 15:26; Romans 4:13-14, 16-21; 5:5; 8:14-17; 13:14; Ephesians 4:24; Philippians 2:14-16, and James 2:5*. What does each of these verses teach about the benefits of our righteousness?

Read *James 2:14-26*. What terminology does James use to explain that true saving faith will produce fruitfulness?

What is James' definition of living by faith?

Can people around you conclude that there is something different about you based on your behavior?

How can we pray for you this week?

#### **Notable Quote**

Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because He shows us both God and our own wretchedness.

-Blaise Pascal-

*Pride may be set down as "the sin" of human nature.*

-Charles Spurgeon-

*There is nothing into which the heart of man so easily falls as pride, and yet there is no more vice which is more frequently, more emphatically, and more eloquently condemned in Scripture. Pride is a thing which should be unnatural to us, for we have nothing to be proud of. In almost every other sin, we gather us ashes when the fire is gone. But here, what is left? The covetous man has his shining gold, but what does the proud man have? He has less than he would have had without pride, and is no gainer whatever. Pride wins no crown.*

-Charles Spurgeon-

*You cannot make men good by law.*

-C.S. Lewis-



Message #23: Faith vs. Pride

May 25, 2014

## *Sermon* *Notes*

### **1. Justification by Faith Alone Gives Us No Reason to Boast (27-28)**

### **2. Because There's One God, There's Only One Way of Salvation (29-30)**

### **3. Justification by Faith Doesn't Nullify the Law, but Establishes It (31)**

*Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good—above all, that we are better than someone else—I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil. The real test of being in the presence of God is that you either forget about yourself altogether or see yourself as a small, dirty object. It is better to forget about yourself altogether.*

-C. S. Lewis-

How does the quote above make you feel? Is Lewis correct? Why?

Think through this various list of sins (*Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 1:29-31; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 1:9-10*). How is pride at the root of all these sins?

A Roman Catholic friend takes you to *James 2:24* and insists that we are justified by works, not by faith alone. How would you respond?

How would you harmonize these two lists of Scripture?

*Matthew 5:17-19*

*Romans 6:14*

*Romans 3:31*

*Romans 10:4*

*Romans 7:12*

*2 Corinthians 3:6-18*

*James 1:25*

*Hebrews 7:12, 22*

*Hebrews 8:7, 13*

Is your right standing before God a source of pride or humility for you? Explain.

Have you been guilty of boasting in you salvation? How? Why?

Have you made critical comments about unbelievers because they have refused to trust in Christ?

What does this indicate about your beliefs about your own salvation?

Read *1 Corinthians 1:26-31* and *Ephesians 2:8-10*. Why shouldn't we boast about our salvation?

Read *Luke 18:10-14*. Could you be accused of behaving more like the Pharisee than the publican?

Why did the Jewish people have a problem with the fact that God was also the God of the Gentiles?

What is the purpose of the Law if it doesn't save anyone?

What does Paul mean when he says, *we establish the law (Romans 3:31)*?

How would you explain the purpose of the Law to new believers? Non-believers?

Does God have a works system of salvation for Jewish people and a faith system for Gentiles? Explain (*1 Timothy 2:5-6*).