

Bible Reading

Romans 1:16-17

16 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. 17 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."

Up to these two verses, Paul has been attracting his readers' attention.

Now the introduction is over, and the **theme** is stated.

Three great Pauline watchwords,

The three foundation pillars of our Faith.

- **There is the notion of salvation.**
 - **There is the notion of faith.**
 - **There is the notion of justification.**
- (i) **There is the notion of Christian salvation.**

(a) It was **salvation** from **life's flaws**. (Acts 2:40). *40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."*

(b) It was **salvation** from **lostness** (Lk. 19:10) *10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*

(c) It was **salvation** from **sin** (Matt. 1:21). *21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

(d) It was **salvation** from the **wrath** of God (Rom. 5:9). *9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

(e) It was a salvation which is **eschatological**. = **the body of religious doctrines concerning the human soul in its relation to death, judgment, heaven, and hell.**

(1 Pet. 1:5). *3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

(ii) There is the notion of faith.

- (a) Faith means **loyalty**
- (b) Faith means **belief**
- (c) Faith means **total acceptance and absolute trust**

(iii) There is the notion of justification.

Justification, justify, justice and just. In all the New Testament, there are no more **difficult** words to understand.

God does not see the sinner as a **criminal** to be **condemned**, but as a **child** to be **loved**.

- God reckons us not as his **enemies** but as his **friends**:
- Not as law-breakers to be **punished**, but as men and women to be **loved**.
- **That is the very essence of the gospel.**
- To be **justified** is to enter into a new relationship with God,
- A relationship of love and confidence and friendship, instead of one of distance and enmity and fear

The just shall live by faith. It is the man who is in a **right relationship with God**, not because of the **works** of his hands, but because of **his utter faith in what the love of God has done**, who really knows what life is like in time and in eternity.

- **Fear was gone and love had come.**
- The God whom men had thought an **enemy** had become a **friend**.