
THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:11

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

Hebrews 10:38

but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

The Just shall live by faith: The Testimony of Martin Luther

- Early life: Full of discipline and frequent harshness.
- Career choice: Enrolled in the University of Erfurt with the intention of becoming a lawyer. "As he returned to school after a visit with his parents, sudden lightning struck him to the earth...he cried out to his father's saint, patroness of miners, "St. Anne help me! I will become a monk!" – Roland Bainton¹
- Completely threw himself into the quest for peace with God. "Whatever good works a man might do to save himself, these Luther was resolved to perform. He fasted; sometimes three days on end without a crumb . . . He laid upon himself vigils and prayers in excess of those stipulated by the rule. He cast off the blankets permitted him and well nigh froze himself to death."²
- Disillusioned by a gap between _____ and _____.
- Began to give lectures on the Bible.
 - 1513-15 Psalms (first course of lectures)
 - 1515-16 Romans
 - 1516-17 Galatians
 - 1517-18 Hebrews³

- *The just shall live by faith.*

“Here I felt that I was altogether reborn and had entered through open gates into Paradise itself.”⁴

- _____ over _____: 95 Theses on October 31, 1517.
- Internal struggles and public opposition.
 - ⇒ Internal struggles: Depression
 - ⇒ Public opposition.
- Leipzig debate against John Eck: “...a butcher’s face and bull’s voice.”⁵
- Diet of Worms: “Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen.”

“And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed
His truth to triumph through us.”
– Martin Luther, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Takeaways:

- ⇒ Follow the Truth rather than the crowd.
- ⇒ Use your influence for righteousness.
- ⇒ Live by faith in Christ’s work rather than your own.

Key: preaching/practice/Scripture/Tradition

¹ Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1950), 25.

² *Ibid.*, 34.

³ Alister E. McGrath, *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. (Blackwell: Malden, MA, 1999), 88.

⁴ *Preface to the Complete Edition of Luther’s Latin Writings*, 1545, WA, 186. In, F. Edward Cranz, “Martin Luther,” *Reformers in Profile* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1967), 94-95.

⁵ Bainton, *Here I Stand*, 82.