

October 31, 1517

October 31, 2017

Introduction

- On October 31, 1517, an Augustine monk named Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses at the main door of the Wittenberg Castle Church
- The world has not been the same since
- We will not be discussing the historic or political influences of the Reformation

Introduction

- We have selected 12 biblical passages which will be studied in this series
- The emphasis of these passages will demonstrate the importance of the Word of God
- At Inste Bible College, we are dedicating 2017 to the celebration of the study of the Word of God

Biblical Text

- ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified (Romans 2:13 ESV)

Outline

- It is not the hearers of the law
- It is the doers of the law
- Who will be justified

Introduction

- Romans
 - The theme of the epistle is “¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)

Introduction

- Romans
 - “To the Jew” first is not to be understood as either superiority or exclusion
 - Rather, that the Jews received the Law (Torah) and the promises as stewards of God’s gracious choice
 - They are to realize their role as being a blessing to the nations because of their uniqueness before God

Introduction

- The word “law” in our text is the Old Testament equivalent of Torah
- תֹּרַה (*tô·rā(h)*)- law, teaching, regulation, precept, commandment and instruction
- The idea behind the word is to inform, instruct, direct, or guide
- In Jewish tradition it is most frequently used to refer to the first five books of the Bible, also called the Pentateuch

Introduction

- However, the word has a wider meaning, which embraces all commands from God
- In ancient Israel, the people were to follow the “laws” of God’s covenant on Mt. Sinai
- In our verse, law is the written Scripture which is read in the synagogue

Introduction

- Paul and the NT
 - νόμος (*nomos*)-law, principle, rule, Scripture and custom
 - In the NT, Torah can refer to the Mosaic law (Rom 7:14) or a way of behaving (Rom 9:31)
 - It occurs 195 times in the NT
 - Paul uses it 118 times
 - In Romans it occurs 27 times and in Galatians, 32

Introduction

- Paul and the NT
 - He begins with the traditional sense in which “law” refers to the OT writings
 - It is also the Ten Commandments (Rom 13:8)
 - The law demands a response (Rom 2:25)
 - The law is the good will of God, so opposing it is equal to opposing God (Rom 8:7)

Introduction

- Paul and the NT
 - The law forbids sin (Rom 7:7)
 - The law unmasks sin (Rom 7:9)
 - It condemns sin (Rom 5:13)
 - It finally points to death through the knowledge of sin (Rom 7:9-10)

It is Not the Hearers of the Law

- Hearers
 - ἀκροατής (*akroatēs*)- hearer, listener, disciple and pupil
 - Only used four times in the NT (Rom 2:13; Jas 1:22, 23 and 25)
 - Hearers of the Scriptures
 - People would hear the reading of the Torah in the synagogue

It is Not the Hearers of the Law

- Law
 - Written law which is read in the synagogue
 - It is the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)
 - The apostle makes sure the Jewish believers realize that although the Lord has entrusted the Jews with Scripture, it is not enough just to be the recipients of it
 - They must obey and apply its precepts

It is the Doers of the Law

- Doers
 - *ποιητής (poiētēs)*- doer, keeper, one who obeys and one who carries out
 - The doers respond to Scripture by applying it to their lives
 - In other words, it is not a theoretical assent rather a submission of one's will to the Scripture which makes it transformational

Who Will Be Justified

- Justified
 - δικαιόω (*dikaioō*)- justify, pronounce righteous, put right with, acquit and to do justice to
 - Righteous people are those who are in right relationship with God
 - It is God who is the initiator and decider of who is justified through faith in His Son Jesus Christ

Who Will Be Justified

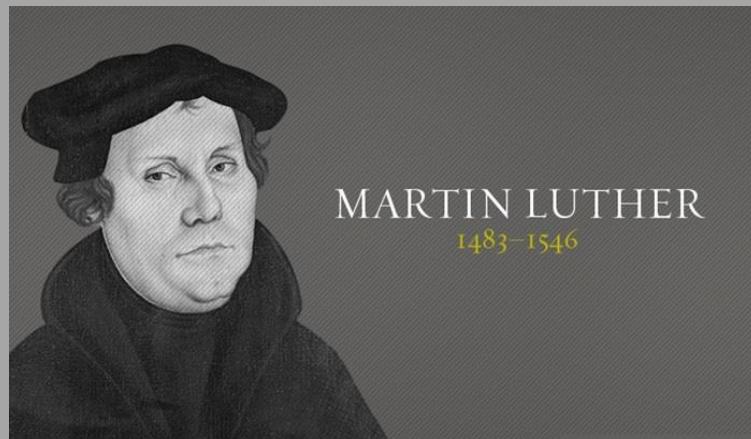
- Justified
 - Scripture gives God's guidelines and guidance to have the correct relationship with the Lord
 - It is trusting-faith in the life and work of Jesus Christ, informed by Scripture, that provides the instructions needed to maintain a vibrant communion with the Lord

Outline

- It is not the hearers of the law
- It is the doers of the law
- Who will be justified

Conclusion

- The Scriptures are to be appropriated by the believers and put into practice
- It is through engaging Scripture in one's life that true growth in righteousness occurs
- Righteousness is attained through faith in Christ's redemptive work through the Holy Spirit



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