

# Message Notes

## “Here I Stand – Part 2”

### Romans 4:5

November 6, 2016

#### A Pardon Sought – We All Must Have

- ◆ **In a Helpful Context – God’s Hand Was Providentially Seen**

“To study church history is to study the ways of God; it is to appreciate His providential guidance of His people. We forget that the better we understand yesterday, the better we understand today.” (Erwin Lutzer)

“History repeats itself. It has to – nobody listens the first time around.” (Woody Allen)
- ◆ **In a Harmful Crisis – God’s Church Was Shamed Publicly**
  - ◆ **These Actions Begged Reform**
    - ◆ **Sinfulness**
    - ◆ **Superstition**

“We had too many churches, too many relics (true and fake), too many untruthful miracles. Instead of worshiping the only living Lord, we worshiped dead bones; in the place of immortal Christ, we worshiped mortal bread (the consecrated bread of the mass).” (Foxe’s *Book of Martyrs*)
    - ◆ **Selfishness**
  - ◆ **This Advocate Began Reform (Martin Luther)**
    - ◆ **He Was Attacked at First**

“(I will) not tolerate or overlook any longer the pernicious poison of the above errors without disgrace to the Christian religion and injury to orthodox faith.” (Pope Leo X)
    - ◆ **He Was Appreciated at Last**
      - ◆ **His Concern Was Affirmed**

“I think that the intentions of Martin Luther were not mistaken. He was a reformer. Perhaps some methods were not correct. . . . There was corruption in the Church, there was worldliness, attachment to money, to power . . . and this he protested. . . . And today . . . all of us agree on the doctrine of justification. On this point, which is very important, he did not err. He made a medicine for the Church.” (Pope Francis)

“(God’s Word is) strong medicine . . . when held in faith, for it turns death into eternal life. Oh, if someone could believe this, how blessed would he be in this life as well.” (Martin Luther)
      - ◆ **His Commitment Was Avoided**
        - ◆ **Recognizing Scripture’s Authority**
        - ◆ **Resting Salvation in Faith in Christ Alone**
          - ◆ **Church Council Denied (Council of Trent)**
          - ◆ **“Joint Declaration on Justification” (1999) Confused**

## **A Pardon Secured – We All May Have**

### **◆ Though Urgently Pursued . . .**

#### **◆ Drawing Near By Striving**

#### **◆ Feeling for By Sinning**

“Luther’s question was not whether his sins were big or little, but whether they had been confessed. . . . To be confessed, they must be recognized and remembered. If they are not recognized and remembered, they cannot be confessed. If they are not confessed, they cannot be forgiven.” (Roland Bainton)

### **◆ It Was Graciously Provided**

#### **◆ Which Scripture Expressed**

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17 NKJV)

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. (Romans 4:5 NKJV)

“Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.” (Martin Luther)

“Luther realized that we are saved by sheer grace and mercy thanks to the gift of the perfections of Christ. In the gospel, we learn that sinners can be declared to have the righteousness of God attributed to their accounts. For those who believe, God has granted forgiveness and has put legions of demons to flight.” (Erwin Lutzer)

#### **◆ Which Christ Earned**

##### **◆ A Statue Symbolizes – “Christ the Redeemer” (Rio de Janeiro)**

##### **◆ A Song Celebrates**

*In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the pow’r of Christ in me.*

(Keith Getty & Stuart Townend)