

# The Faith of Jesus

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## My Journey

- ✦ Early History
- ✦ Wall Street Journal
- ✦ The Search
- ✦ The Discovery
- ✦ The Second Discovery
- ✦ The 1888 General Conference
- ✦ History and Message

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> AM & The Faith of Jesus

- ✦ The soul-saving message, the third angel's message, is the message to be given to the world. **The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are both important, immensely important, and must be given with equal force and power.** {1888 430.2}

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## Faith of Jesus Not Comprehended

- ✦ The first part of the message has been dwelt upon mostly, the last part casually. **The faith of Jesus is not comprehended.** We must talk it, we must live it, we must pray it, and educate the people to bring this part of the message into their home life. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5. {1888 430.2}

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## The Third Angel's Message

- ✦ Several have written to me, inquiring if the **message of justification by faith** is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the **third angel's message in verity.**" {RH, April 1, 1890 par. 8}
- ✦ Third Angel's Message
  - Commandments of God and faith of Jesus
  - Justification By Faith

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## Two Gospel Narratives: Righteousness by Faith

- ✦ Does God reveal His Righteousness thru
- ✦ 1) Our faith in Jesus
- ✦ 2) The Faith of Jesus Himself
  
- ✦ 1) Man-centered (anthropocentric) or
- ✦ 2) God-centered (Theo-centric)

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## The Faith of Jesus

- ✳ For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. (Romans 4:13)
- ✳ Who became Heir of the World?

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## Patristic Theology

- ✳ 100-300 AD
  - “Faith OF Jesus” predominated

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## Patristic Fathers

- ✳ Augustine rejected the Faith of Jesus
- ✳ Faith of Jesus embraced by
  - Origen, Clement of Alexandria, Polycarp, the Shepherd of Hermas, Ignatius of Antioch, The Odes of Solomon, Tertullian
- ✳ Samuel Taylor Coleridge (19<sup>th</sup> Century)
  - The Christian participates in the faith of Jesus

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## Post Reformation Theology 16<sup>th</sup> Cent → Faith of Jesus Disappears

- ✳ 300 AD – 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - “Faith IN Jesus” Predominated
- ✳ See Galatians 2:16

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## J x F & the Glory of Man

- ✳ Luther & the Reformation
  - J x F is motif & theme of Romans & Galatians
- ✳ Expressions like the RT of God & Faith in Jesus Christ were keystones of the gospel of M. Luther
- ✳ Revision of these terms might alter the understanding of the gospel and unsettle the tenets of Christianity (Gerhard Kittel)

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## Justification by faith

- ✳ “What is justification by faith? -- It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.

*Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers (Series A, No. 9, 1897), pages 61, 62.*

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## The Faith of Jesus

- ✳ Reading 'faith *in* Jesus' for the genitive 'faith *of* Jesus' is "at least a post-Reformation innovation that offers a truncated account of what the broader Christian tradition has heard in Paul's language about the 'faith of Jesus.'" R.B. Hays, *The Faith of Jesus*

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## The Theodicy Question in Habakkuk and Romans

- ✳ Question #1 of Habakkuk 1:2-4
  - RT is perverted – Do something
- ✳ God responds in Hab. 1:5, 6
  
- ✳ Question # 2 of Habakkuk 1:12-13
  - Habakkuk waits for God's answer & reproof 2:1
- ✳ God responds in Hab. 2:2-4
  - "The Just One shall live by His Faith"

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## Paul Links his Gospel to Habakkuk's Theodicy Question

- ✳ Does God set things right by our faith or the faith of Jesus?
- ✳ The message is a Theocentric Theodicy
  - How God reveals His Righteousness
  - Makes things right from what has gone wrong
  
- ✳ Romans 1:16-17
  - RT of God revealed from Faith for Faith
  - "The RT One shall live from faith"

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## Theodicy Question in Romans 3

- ✳ Will unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God? Rom. 3:3
  
- ✳ An Emphatic NO! Noda! God forbid!
  
- ✳ The evidence is in Romans 3:21-26

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## The evidence of the Faithfulness of God is in Romans 3:21-26

- ✳ C.E.A. Cranfield: "It is the center & heart of the whole of Romans"
- ✳ E. Kasemann: "The thesis proper"
- ✳ H. Ridderbos: "The great programmatic summary of his gospel"
- ✳ A.T. Robinson: "The most concentrated and heavily theological summary of the Pauline gospel, and every word has to be wrestled with"

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## Romans 3:21-26

- 21) But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- 22) Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all and upon all who believe

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## Romans 3:21-26

22) Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ [which is the gospel: power of God unto salvation] for all who believe; [the Jew first and also the Greek]

23) For there is no difference (believing Jew or Greek), for all sinned and all fall short themselves of the glory of God

24) Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

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## Romans 3:21-26

25) Whom God set forth as a propitiation [satisfying the law] by His blood through the faith for a display of His righteousness because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.

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## Romans 3:21-26

26) For a demonstration of His righteousness at the present time in order that He might be just while justifying the one from the faith of Jesus (see Gal. 2:16).

[while justifying the one who now lives by virtue of the faith of Jesus]

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## The Faith of Jesus in Galatians

※ Gal.:2:16-20

- The question is not between works and faith
- But between Law & the Faith of Jesus Christ

※ Gal. 3:1-ff

※ Revelation 12-14; 20

- Misrepresentation of God (law) at the Fall

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## The Faith of Jesus

"I have grown increasingly convinced that the struggles of the church in our time are a result of its losing touch with its own gospel story. We have gotten 'off-message' and therefore lost our way in a culture that tells us many other stories about who we are and where our hope lies."

R.B. Hays, *The Faith of Jesus*

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## The Faith of Jesus

※ "Suppose one man to rely on his own faith and another to rely on his own works, then the faith of one and the works of the other are equally the same filthy rags."

William Law, cited in A.G. Herbert, "Faithfulness' and 'Faith,'" *Theology* 58 (1955) 379

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## Faith of Jesus and Salvation

- \* "Paul presents redemption in Christ as a radical restructuring of human nature: it is in effect a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). Christ became what we are in order that we might become what He is." Morna Hooker quoted in R. Hayes, *The Faith of Jesus*, p. xxxii
- \* Salvation "begins with the Faith OF Jesus, but which includes the answering faith of believers who claim His faith as their OWN." Morna Hooker, *ibid.*

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## The Theodicy Question: How Does God Set Things Right?

- \* Through the Faith of Jesus of Christ
- \* So that you can be set right thru His faith
- \* And God is Vindicated thru Christ

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## The Theodicy Question

- \* "Paul's gospel is founded upon the story of a Messiah who is vindicated (=justified) by God through faith. This Messiah (Jesus Christ) is not, however, a solitary individual whose triumph accrues only to His own benefit; He is a representative figure in whom the destiny of all God's elect is embodied. Thus all are justified thru His faith." R. Hays, "The Faith of Jesus," p. 141

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