

## Anglican Reformers on Sola Fide

Richard Hooker – “God doth justify the believing man, yet not for the worthiness of his belief, but for his worthiness who is believed.”

Hugh Latimer – Faith is the hand wherewith we take everlasting life.

Richard Hooker – “As for such as hold, with the church of Rome, that we cannot be saved by Christ alone without works; they...deny the foundation of faith.”

William Tyndale – “And when I say, ‘God justifieth us,’ understand thereby that God – for Christ’s sake, merits and deservings only – receiveth us unto his mercy, favour and grace, and forgiveth our sins.”

Robert Barnes (burnt at Smithfield 1540)

“If we will truly confess Christ, then must we grant with our hearts that Christ is all our justice, all our redemption, all our wisdom, all our holiness, all alone the purchaser of grace, alone the peacemaker between God and man; briefly, all goodness that we have, that it is of him, by him, and for his sake only; and that we have need of nothing towards our salvation, but of him only; and we desire no other salvation, nor any other satisfaction, nor any help of any other creature, either heavenly or earthly, but of him only.

Thomas Cranmer – *Homily on Salvation (1)*

There are three things which must concur and go together in our justification: Upon God’s part, his great mercy and grace; upon Christ’s part, justice, that is, the satisfaction of God’s justice, or price of our redemption, by the offering of his body and shedding of his blood, with fulfilling of the law perfectly and thoroughly; and upon our part, true and lively faith in the merits of Jesus Christ, which (faith) yet is not ours, but by God’s working in us. (see Ephesians 2.8f)

This proposition – that we be justified by faith only, freely, and without works – is spoken in order to take away clearly all merit of our works, as being insufficient to deserve our justification at God’s hands; and thereby most plainly to express the weakness of man and the goodness of God, the great infirmity of ourselves and the might and power of God, the imperfectness of our own works and the most abundant grace of our Savior Christ; and thereby wholly to ascribe the merit and deserving of our justification unto Christ only and his most precious blood-shedding.

...man cannot justify himself by his own works, neither in part nor in the whole; for that were the greatest arrogancy and presumption of man that antichrist could erect against God, to affirm that a man might by his own works take away and purge his own sins, and so justify himself.

Richard Hooker – it is not as if this bare action of our minds, whereby we believe the gospel of Christ, were able in self, of itself, to make us unconquerable and invincible. No, it is not the worthiness of our believing, it is the virtue of him in whom we believe by which we stand sure, as houses that are builded upon a rock.

- 1) Anglican homilies can be found at - <http://www.anglicanlibrary.org/homilies/index.htm>
- 2) More information here - <http://www.anglicanhistory.org/>