

- God has shown in His word that salvation comes through faith, even from the beginning.
- The Council of Trent responded to challenges by the Protestants who showed that justification was by faith alone, by grace alone, as found in Scripture alone. The council declared that the Reformers who disagreed with its decrees of the Catholic church were cursed (condemned).
- The Catholic church still holds to these beliefs and rejects Paul's teaching in Romans 5, Ephesians 2, and Galatians 2 which show plainly salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, without work or merits.
- What is so significant about Joshua 2 and the account of Rahab?
  1. Jericho is the first stop for Israel after crossing the Jordan River. The Canaanites have established fortified cities to protect themselves. They also demonstrate a great fear of Yahweh and Israel as the king learns that Israeli spies have entered the city.
  2. Joshua 2:2-3, the king of Jericho has heard that Rahab lodged the spies. She lies to the king and says the men have gone, although she has hidden them in the roof. The writer of this account doesn't explain some obvious questions: 1) These men weren't good spies; the king knew where they were. 2) Is it okay for a Jewish man to be in a harlot's house? 3) Can Israel receive help from a lying, Canaanite woman? 4) Why did they even trust her? 5) How will they get out the city when the gates close?
- **Some Surprising and Unexpected Observations About Rahab:**
  1. **The Surprising and Unexpected Faith of Rahab:** V8-14, Rahab's faith believed: 1) That Yahweh was God alone, V9. 2) That Yahweh is the God of heaven and earth, the Only God, V11. 3). The Canaanites' hearts melted because Yahweh judges the wicked, V9-10. 4) God's patience with the deeds of the Canaanites has come to an end, Lev. 18:2, Deut. 12:31. Gen. 18:25 (God brings justice).
  2. **The Surprising and Unexpected Obedience that comes from Rahab's Faith:** V12, Rahab seeks mercy from the men for her and her family. She desires to be spared from future judgement and receive salvation. Josh. 2:15-21, the men make an oath with Rahab, signified by a scarlet cord from the window. V22-24, Rahab keeps her part of the oath and the spies report all that has happened to Joshua.
- **We learn two important truths from the story of Rahab in Joshua 2:**
  1. **Salvation has always been by grace alone through faith alone.** Rahab was not saved because she was a good person, who kept the commands of God. She had faith given to her from Yahweh unto salvation. She was dead in her sins and transgressions and made alive through the kindness and goodness of Yahweh, just as New Testament believers have learned of Christ, Rom. 3:9-20, Ephesians 2:1-10. Light shined in the hearts of the wicked, 2 Cor. 4:3-6.
  2. **It has always been that grace alone through faith is never alone.** Obedience demonstrates the faith we have received by the Lord. Rahab hid the spies, Heb. 11:30-31. Obedience of faith results from the commandment of God and the revelation of His Word, Rom. 16:26. Rahab was justified by her works, her actions showing that her faith was genuine and true, James 2:25.
    - It is the glory of God to justify sinners by faith in Him by grace alone with faith that is not alone. James argues that the faith we have received unto salvation results in works that demonstrate a faith that is alive (James 2:26).

### **Further Discussion and Application**

The doctrines of grace reveal much about the heart of man. What do they reveal about the originator of the salvation we have received? What do they reveal about the source of our salvation? How much do we contribute to the work that God does in us? Why would man desire to take credit for a monergistic work of God? What Scriptures define salvation by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ in alone?

How might we receive this story if we heard of a Canaanite prostitute's faith in our God and desire to be saved from judgement and death? Looking at her confession of Yahweh, what will we hear from the mouth of one who has repented of their sins and received faith to be saved? Look at Joshua 2:9-12. What truths about Yahweh has she received? What does she believe? Speculate for a moment how she would have ever come across this information? What do we see about God's ability to reach the lost whom He has determined to save?

In John 8:31-59, Jesus tells the Jewish leaders what it means to abide in Him. Who are the disciples of Jesus from V31? What do the disciples of Jesus possess in V32? What are the deeds of Abraham Jesus is referring to in V39? What is the motivation of the heart towards Jesus in V42? What are the words of Jesus to the believer from V45-47? What is the hope of the one who believes in Jesus from V51? What does the believer in Jesus look forward to find in V56? What does the believer in Jesus believe about Him from V58?

What is a summary definition of the one who abides (lives, dwells) in Christ from John 8:31-59?