

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Thursday, February 9th:

“For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.” (Romans 3:28)

Today my confirmation class will study “justification by grace through faith”. Apostle Paul first laid this theological formulation in his letter to the Romans. It is also in his letter to the Corinthians, Galatians and Ephesians. Paul had been a Pharisee before he met Jesus on his way to Damascus. Paul thought the best way to love the Lord was to follow all the laws of Moses to the best of one's abilities. Paul wasn't wrong, following God's laws is the way that we can love God and serve our neighbor. It is what God intends for us, that is to live out a life of love and service to God and to one another. However, when Paul met Jesus on the road of Damascus, Paul was given time to think about Jesus and his position on the law. The disciples bore witness about Jesus' death and resurrection and with the gift of the Holy Spirit, he now understood why Jesus came. Paul looked at scriptures and discovered the truth that no one keeps God's laws perfectly. If we break one law, then we have broken our relationship with God. We can't bring enough acts of righteousness to make ourselves right with God. But when Jesus, the Son of God, suffered and died taking on sin and death, Jesus gave us his righteousness. Jesus justifies, makes us right (just/ as if/ i/ never sinned) with God. So now that we are children of God, what are you and I going to do? Jesus sets us free to love, because we are loved. Jesus sets us free to forgive, because we are forgiven.