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**Luther's Great Discovery**  
**The ALONE's of the Gospel!**

*How Do Imperfect People  
 Get Right With The Perfect God?*

**By GRACE alone through FAITH alone in CHRIST alone!**

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**Why Grace Alone?**

**In order to be right with God and get into heaven,  
 each of us needs a perfect grade (A+) on our report card.  
 And we are all failing (F")!**

Romans 3:10, Ecclesiastes 7:20 & Romans 3:23, NLT  
**No one is righteous, not even one...Not a single person on earth  
 is always good and never sins...we all fall short of God's glorious  
 standard.**

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### Why Christ Alone?

Jesus is the only one who could die in our place – and obey in our place!

He took our “F” so that we could be given his “A+”

2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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### Why Faith Alone?

An “A+” on our report card is a gift that must be received.

To get it (and keep it) we can’t do anything else but trust God’s promise!

Romans 3:22 & 4:5, NIV

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

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### Faith Alone?

#### What About Good Works?

Karl Keating, Roman Catholic Theologian

The Bible is quite clear that we are saved by faith. The Protestant Reformers were quite right in saying this, and to this extent they merely repeated the constant teaching of the Church. Where they erred was in saying that we are saved by faith alone.

Roman Catholic Council of Trent, 1547

If anyone says that by faith alone the impious are justified and nothing else is required to obtain justification, let him be anathema.

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**Roman Catholic View**  
**Justification By Faith *Plus* Good Works!**

Justification is conferred in baptism, the sacrament of faith...No one can merit the initial grace of forgiveness and justification at the beginning of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can then merit for ourselves the grace needed for the attainment of eternal life. (R.C. Catechism – 1992 &2010)

Christ did his part, and now we have to cooperate by doing ours. The Church teaches that only souls that are objectively good and pleasing to God merit heaven. (Karl Keating, R.C. Theologian)

Justification is preserved and increased in the sight of God through good works. (R.C. Council of Trent)

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**Roman Catholic View**  
**The NT Book of James Agrees With Us!**

**Even Martin Luther**  
**struggled with the message of James.**

James 2:14, NIV & 2:17, 24, ESV  
What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save them?...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead...a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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**Protestant Reformers**

**Faith that does not “work” does not work!**

James 2:18, Galatians 5:6 & Romans 1:5, NIV  
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds...faith expressing itself in love...the obedience that comes from faith.

**Not, Faith PLUS Works – But, Faith THAT works!**  
**Not, “Please” works – But, “Thank You” works!**

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**Protestant Reformers**

**Good works are the fruit and evidence of justification.**

Ephesians 2:8-10, ESV

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

***We are justified by faith alone, but not by faith that is alone!***

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**Roman Catholic View**

**Assurance of Salvation? Not really.**

**We don't boast that we have already been saved. We hope that we will be saved.**  
(Avery Dulles)

For Catholics, salvation depends on the state of the soul at death. As Catholics see it, any one can achieve heaven and anyone can lose it. It all depends on how one enters death, which is why dying is by far one's most important act.  
(Karl Keating)

If one considers his own weakness and his defective disposition, he may well be fearful and anxious as to the state of grace, as nobody knows with certainty of faith which permits no error that he has achieved the grace of God.  
(Council of Trent)

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**Protestant Reformers**

**Assurance of Salvation? Yes!**

**Those who put their trust in Christ alone through faith alone are fully pardoned – not “on parole.”**

1 John 5:11-13, NLT

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may KNOW you have eternal life.

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**The Gospel Equation**

**NOT:  $F(b) + GW \rightarrow J - A$**

**BUT:  $F(\text{alone}) \rightarrow J + GW + A$**

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