

The Everlasting Gospel of Justification

“The righteousness of God revealed
from faith to faith.” Romans 1:17

The mind of man is never exercised about a more important case than this—How may sinful man be made righteous? And the mind of every reasonable man must, by thoughts upon this important case, be often cast into agonies. God, who forms the spirit of man within him, has formed in the spirit of man a conscience that, in all men who are not stupefied and brutified with senseless wickedness, with distress thinks upon that great question, How may I arrive to a righteousness that may entitle me unto the favors of God? Unto this great question of every awakened mind there is a satisfying answer given in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. And there is

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no little demonstration and confirmation of the Christian religion in this glory of the gospel that no other religion gives an answer to that will in any measure satisfy. The superstitions practiced among the “ungospelized” nations of the earth to obtain a righteousness before God are indeed so very ridiculous that no part of mankind, except strangely enchanted, could be contented with such idle and futile practices. The very recital of them would be a comedy. But the methods of obtaining righteousness prescribed in the Christian religion are full of an evidently glorious majesty. There is nothing in them unworthy of God.

That renowned preacher of the gospel, our Apostle Paul, therefore tells the Church of Rome that he is not ashamed of preaching the gospel. I pray, sir, why not? He replied, “Because ’tis that which the salvation of sinful man will turn upon his receiving or his rejecting of. And this is manifest because the only way how sinful man