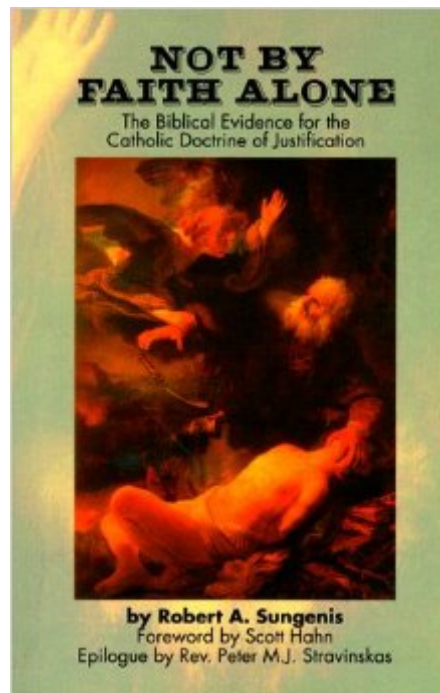


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Not By Faith Alone: A Biblical Study Of The Catholic Doctrine Of Justification



Synopsis

As never before, the Catholic Church has been called upon to be the defender of Scripture and preserver of truth in modern times. Not by Faith Alone will set the biblical and historical record straight. But more important, as you learn the real truth about salvation and all that it embraces, this book will offer you the means to come to one of the deepest relationships with God that you have ever experienced. Faith alone? Is it justifiable? Not biblically, and Robert Sungenis shows why. Has an Imprimatur.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I've spent almost my entire life as a Baptist, I believe Mr. Sungenis was very thorough in his explanations. I thought it was very clear over all and certainly very deeply researched. I didn't have trouble understanding it, although it did take me a long time to read it through completely. I will say though, that I don't understand why anyone would attack him personally like I've seen in the other reviews. It is just not logical, or Christian to say that because a man writes a book on faith and works that this makes him fair game for such unsubstantiated, personal attacks. It's too bad it drew a response of a personal nature in his defense, too, but I think I can understand and forgive that one. Really, I'm a bit embarrassed because I suspect these people doing this are also Protestants who just don't like what he wrote. Well, I'm not thrilled about reading it either, it's not easy to read something that disagrees with you about such serious things. But I didn't see anything that struck me as one reviewer charged. I didn't feel personally attacked. And I wish everyone would stop this stuff. It's just sinful and wrong. I'm sorry if that sounds harsh.

While the book is quite long, unlike a couple of the hostile critics below, I didn't have any difficulty understanding this book. I wonder what book they were reading, honestly, as one says he's an English teacher (I guess that explains a lot about the problem in our schools!) I'm protestant, so I certainly didn't come in agreeing with this book, but at least I respect the Catholic position now. I used to think they were totally wrong, with no good arguments on their side. Not that I'm ready to become Catholic just yet!! also didn't see anything personal or unkind in this book, and question whether a couple of reviewers are just on a personal vendetta, really. They didn't give any actual evidence, so I conclude this is what is going on. If you really want to understand the Catholic position, buy this book. I have siblings who are Catholic, and it really helped me.

Robert Sungenis goes beyond simple apologetics and does some serious exegesis- especially regarding the Jutification of Abraham. This book has been called exhaustive by many- I prefer the word energizing or thrilling. This book is valuable because of its strict biblicism and most especially for its interaction with the doctrines presented by the Reformers as well as modern day "Faith Alone" theologies- MacArthur and Ryrie etc... It is adressed to both Catholic and Protestant- whether scholar or layman. The book hits on key themes over and over again in order to try and cut through the fog. The book first covers the biblical testimoney from Paul and James (especially in regards Abraham) as well as the teaching of Jesus on Jutification. Then the book over several chapters covers the nature of Justification Whether it is a One time event or an Ongoing Process, Imputed or Infused Righteousness, Courtroom Decree or Familial Restoration. Soon we move on to the issue of Free Will and Predestination in a concentrated dose. The last full chapter deals with Protestant doctrines and theologians since the reformation and their critiques of the Catholic faith. This is perhaps the most caluable Chapter in the book. After reading other clear presentations from Scripture the reader sees with stuning clarity the differences within Protestantism itself as well as the chasm that exists between modern Protestants and the Reformers. The Apendixes are numerous and helpful. The footnotes throrough are invaluable. I only have a few shallow criticisms. First there is little ineration with the 4th century fathers on this issue. Mostly because the Biblical testimoney is sufficient and because there is less written by the fathers on this issue than one might expect. Also as another reviewer commented there is not too much interaction with Arminian theology. The shape of the book is nice but someday a hardback edition should come. Because this is at once apologetics and hard biblical and historical theology this deserves a hardback- I've beaten my copy up already- the binding still holds. In short this is the most balanced, full throated

book on justification written by a Catholic in some time. Bravo Sungenis.

I've been a Catholic all my life, and have believed with all my heart and soul! Unfortunately, the last few years I've been confronted with the concept of "Faith Alone" like never before. Having married a very god loving faithful Protestant -- I've had difficulty reconciling the the Catholic and Protestant doctrines of Justification. I found myself uncomfortable with the notion of "Faith Alone" from the first time I heard it and I began seeking the theological evidence for the Catholic Doctrine of Justification which I felt so strongly in my heart. "Not by faith alone", answered my questions, gave me respect for the Protestant position but strenghtened my belief in the Catholic Doctrine, helped me connect my faith, love and feelings with the evidence, and helped me explain the Catholic Doctrine to my Protestant husband in terms he could understand too.

Mr Sungenis does an excellent job in this book explaining the Catholic position of justification and simultaneously working through the problems with the many approaches to sola fide found in Protestantism. The work is heavily footnoted which I appreciate. All the examination is done directly in light of sacred Scripture, and he also uses a favorite Protestant translation, the NIV, to show how sola fide is not workable even with a translation heavily slanted towards Protestant thought. Chapter 9 gets into different Protestant points of view and deals with them directly and the appendics covers in detail many of the subjects related to sola fide. And in the very back is an index of Scripture and where it is referenced in the book which is an excellent tool for when you want to come back and view certain passages for that occasional discussion with a fellow non Catholic Christian. This book I believe is the best this century on this subject.

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