

## **Fundamental Truths - Justification**

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### **The Meaning of Justification - "this grace wherein we stand" (Rom 5v2)**

The background to the truth of justification is that of guilt and unrighteousness.

Justification is a legal term, involving being acquitted of the guilt of our sins & cleared of every charge (the negative aspects), and to be declared just & accounted righteous before God (the positive aspects). There are no degrees to this justification; the blessing is fully comprehensive (Acts 13v39).

As sinners, we were spiritually naked, unclothed, unrighteous; but now God has imputed to us the very righteousness of God (Rom 3v22). By His grace and because of Calvary (Rom 3v24), we have been acquitted of all guilt and given a righteous standing in the presence of a holy God (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 5v21).

Tabernacle reference - the boards of the tabernacle "standing up" (Ex 26v15).

### **The Need of Justification - "all the world ... guilty before God" (Rom 3v19)**

OT saints recognised the need, "but how ...?" (Job 9v2,20, 25v4-6)

In Romans, before Paul explains as to "but how?" (ch3v21-ch5), he first fully details the need of all of mankind for justification (ch1v19-ch3v20).

The heathen / pagan man (ch1v19-32) guilty in the light of creation.

The moral / enlightened man (ch2v1-16) guilty on the ground of conscience.

The privileged Jew (ch2v17-ch3v8) guilty on the ground of the covenant.

Summary of man's ruin (ch3v9-20), a scene of universal corruption & depravity, man's need for justification is undeniable.

### **The Origin of Justification - "it is God that justifieth" (Romans 8v33)**

Justification is divine prerogative, involving all 3 Persons of the Godhead; God is "the Justifier" (Rom 3v26,30), by His death Christ has secured the blessing for us, and the Holy Spirit is the divine Agent (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 6v11).

Justification declares the very righteousness of God (Rom 3v25-26). God is a just God, and based on Calvary's sacrifice, man's sin has been dealt with righteously, and divine justice has been honoured & satisfied.

Divine justice has now provided for the sinner a justification that is consistent with the divine character, a justification that a righteous God entirely and eternally approves of. When God justifies the guilty sinner who believes in Christ, God is in fact honouring justice.

The divine origin of justification is confirmed; justification is an integral part of the divine and eternal plan for man's eternal blessing (Rom 8v29-30).

### **The Sphere of Justification - "justified in Christ" (Galatians 2v17)**

There is only one place where the blessing of justification is found, in Christ.

In Adam there is death & condemnation, but in Christ there is justification & righteousness (Rom 5 v18-19).

Upon the cross God dealt with Christ as He must deal with sin, "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (Christ)" (2 Cor 5v21).

### **The Basis of Justification – “justified by His blood” (Romans 5v9)**

Nothing less than the eternally precious blood of Christ, shed at Calvary when He gave up His life, sufficed as the basis for our justification.

The blood of Christ procures justification for the believer “now”, i.e. not a process, but as an immediate and present possession upon believing.

So when we present the gospel to sinners, we must make much of the blood of Christ shed at Calvary, it is the only basis for salvation, redemption, forgiveness & justification.

### **The Bestowal of Justification – “justified freely by His grace” (Rom 3v24)**

Justification displays the gracious character of our God, and the justification God offers is an act of unmerited & undeserved favour bestowed upon man.

God has justified us “freely”, without a cause, for we were guilty undeserving sinners, and without a charge, for we were bankrupt and could not pay for it.

### **The Means of Justification – “justified by faith” (Rom 3v28, 5v1, Gal 3v24)**

Romans & Galatians clearly teach this fundamental principle, the means of obtaining justification for Jew & Gentile is by faith alone, and not by works.

Romans - no substitute for faith, the works of the law are opposed to faith.

Galatians - the works of the law are not to be added to faith.

The object of the faith that justifies is Jesus Christ & His sacrifice (Rom 3v22,25), and thus works must be excluded (Rom 3v27-28).

This conclusion removes all distinctions between Jew & Gentile, both are now on the same ground of justification by faith alone (Rom 3v29-30).

This teaching does not make void the law, but establishes the law (Rom3v31).

In ch4, two OT examples to establish the principle of justification by faith.

Abraham, a godly man, his faith was in divine promise (v18), and he exercised that faith as an uncircumcised man (v11).

David, at the time in view ungodly & sinful (v5), his faith was in divine mercy, and he exercised faith as a circumcised man.

For both, their faith was reckoned to them for righteousness without works.

The faith that justifies before God, is a specific faith in the One Who took the place of sinners, died and was raised again from the dead (ch4v23-25).

### **The Evidence of Justification – “justified by works” (James 2v21 & 25)**

This does not contradict Romans & Galatians.

Works are the conclusive proof of the genuineness of faith (Jas 2v22), and they are the product or fruit of the justification obtained by means of faith.

### **The Blessings of Justification – “being now justified” (Romans 5v9)**

Romans 5v1-11, the theme is that of the joy of the justified (v2,v3,v11). Why?

- I enjoy eternal & perfect peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (v1).
- I have immediate & constant spiritual access into God’s presence (v2).
- I have a sure and certain hope of a blessed and glorious future (v2).
- I appreciate the immensity & superiority of God’s love for me (v5-8).
- I am categorically assured of pretribulation rapture away from wrath (v9).