

# *Justification*

**Rom 5:1-5**

**1**

**1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. **3** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; **4** and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; **5** and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

I think it safe to say that the subject of the Epistle to the Romans is seen as man's justification before God through Christ. Paul speaks to this in... **2**

**Rom 1:16-17**

**3**

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

There are some points that we want to look at concerning justification in this lesson...

**4**

- 1) Justification is from God
- 2) Justification Is a Once-for-All Accomplishment by Christ
- 3) How is Justification in Christ accessed by man

The first point then is...

**5**

- 1) Justification is from God

Justification, in its verb form, comes from the Greek...

Dikaiosis (NT:1347)

**6**

Denotes the act of pronouncing righteous, justification, acquittal; its precise meaning is determined by that of the verb dikaioo, "to justify" (see B); it is used twice in the Epistle to the Romans, and there alone in the NT, signifying the establishment of a person as just by acquittal from guilt. In Rom 4:25 the phrase "for our justification," is, lit., "because of our justification" (parallel to the preceding clause "for our trespasses," i. e., because of trespasses committed), and means, not with a view to our "justification," but because all that was necessary on God's part for our "justification" had been effected in the death of Christ. On this account He was raised from the dead. The propitiation being perfect and complete, His resurrection was the confirmatory counterpart. In 5:18, "justification of life" means "justification which results in life" (cf. v. 21). That God "justifies" the believing sinner on the ground of Christ's death, involves His free gift of life.

The idea of justification then is the opposite of condemn as seen in...

**Rom 8:33-34**

**7**

**33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

A few weeks ago we looked at the idea of judging and saw that it was the act of measuring to a standard. Man's salvation is not going to be a subjective guess like judging the routines in the upcoming Olympics gymnastic competition where the judge's favorites or the top contenders tend to get preferential treatment. No, man's salvation will be the Lord's unbiased view of whether or not His standard has been faithfully obeyed. The impact then of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ is that through His sacrifice the debt for sin, can be paid. Condemnation, guilt for the sin we commit, can be forestalled and the debt forgiven because He has fulfilled the requirements of the Law, that is justification.

**Rom 4:7-8**

**8**

**7** "Blessed are those whose deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered."

**8** "Blessed is the man whose sin the lord will not take into account."

That said, it becomes apparent, then, that only the judge can justify the accused or offer pardon. Man cannot do it. Man does not have the ability to objectively apply the standard as a measurement to himself, let alone anyone else. But God does. That's the point Peter makes in...

**1 Peter 1:17-19**

**9**

**17** If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; **18** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

God judges all, and will justify those that place themselves into His loving kindness. This justification is dependent on two things...

**10**

A) The person is truly born again by the power and energy of the Holy Spirit

**John 3:3-6**

**11**

**3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." **4** Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" **5** Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

This isn't just a mere decision made by man, though it starts there, but it is also God's acceptance of man's decision as genuine.

**2 Thess 2:13-14**

**12**

**13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. **14** It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The point is that if we choose to come to God, it must be on His terms, not ours. God calls man through the Gospel, and it is only through a faithful obedient response to that Gospel that can bring man to God to be justified by the blood of Christ. Life, eternal life, can be found only in Christ...

*Phil 1:21*

**13**

**21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**14**

B) There must be a working out of Christ's salvation

*Phil 2:12-13*

**15**

**12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

I said earlier that a condition of our justification is whether God accepts as real, as genuine, the faith, the repentance, the confession, and the showing of our acceptance of the Gospel through our faithful obedience in baptism and following His precepts. Just because I claim faith, or think that I measure up to His standard does not mean that I do. I might consider myself to be the epitome of Christian virtue, but in the end it will be the Lord who decides how I measure up against the standard.

You see, justification involves becoming a new creature.

*2 Cor 5:17-19*

**16**

**17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **18** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

The idea here is that we have to be willing to give up the world, give up who we are, control our desires, emotions, and the bodies of flesh that are so susceptible to the allurements of the world. We must become new creatures if we are to be in Christ, and that starts by coming to God through Christ in baptism. Whatever faith we choose to have is to be seen in the things we do. Do we follow God's commandments? Do we love Him, and show that love? Do we love each other, and show that in our words and deeds? Do we show God that our faith is genuine and not dead?

*James 2:26*

**17**

**26** For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

The salvation which comes through Christ is the believer's reward for coming to Christ in very real faithful obedience, and he is responsible to work it, to live it daily. If he doesn't, he does not have the eternal life of God within him, but he is under a delusion that he is saved.

Paul addresses this in...

**Gal 6:7** 18

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Our next point in this discussion, on the surface is going to sound odd, but bear with me, please...

19 2) Justification Is a Once-for-All Accomplishment by Christ

I would hope that this point is obvious. We are not talking about justification in terms of man here. Man's justification is not once for all time. As we have just discussed, we need to continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, constantly striving to keep the Lord's commandments. No, this thought points to man's justification in terms of what God has done.

In the passage we started with from...

**Rom 5:1-5** 20

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

This passage begins with the verb "dikaiōthēntes," which from the original means...

21 *"Since we were justified."*

It means...

22 A) That someone other than ourselves accomplished it, and that is Christ:

23 *"Through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

24 B) Jesus Christ chose to become flesh and to die for us

God knows the hearts of all men and He knew Adam and Eve would misuse the freedom of choice He gave them, so He made provision in Jesus Christ becoming the sacrificial Lamb before the foundation of the world...

**Eph 1:3-4** 25

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

**Heb 9:26** 26

26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

**27** a) Through His death He justified us before the Father.

Propitiation, the payment for our debt of sin was made by Christ once for all time by His sacrifice.

**28** b) This means that the Father, accepted His Son's sacrifice on our behalf

Before Christ's sacrifice, all the heroes of faith seen in Heb. 11 lived their faith pointing towards the coming of Christ. That is why everyone who lived a life of faith in obedience to God's Law before Christ were vindicated in His sacrifice, and since all who come to God are saved by it...

*Acts 4:12*

**29**

**12** And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Justification, salvation in Christ, is an accomplished fact. God has done exactly what He promised He would in providing a way through Christ to be restored to a relationship with Him. The blood of Christ is the only basis on which God declares us justified, removes our guilt of sin and regenerates us, making us righteous...

*2 Cor 5:21*

**30**

**21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**31** 3) How is Justification in Christ accessed by man

Paul answers that in our text in Rom. 5:1...

**32**

***"Through faith"***

Faith, genuine faith, means accepting that which Christ did for us as a substitute for what we could not do for our own salvation. That is what Philip told the Eunuch he had to confess in Acts 8. Obedient faith puts us into contact with the blood of Christ offered in His sacrifice and which is the only thing that can cleanse man of his sin, and free man of the penalty for that sin, eternal death.

The faith that works within man and brings him to the blood of Christ which saves is not some quality that is abstract. It is real, viable, and tangible in how it works within man and how it is seen in the world and by others. And please hear this, it is only as good as the one on whom it is based. What I mean by that is what Paul says in our text...

**33** ***"Therefore being justified by faith . . . through our Lord Jesus Christ"***

Faith in anyone else will not declare a person not guilty of sin and give him the power against sin. It has to be in and on the One who bore our sin on His own body and gave Himself to pay the penalty for that sin, death, physical and spiritual, so that we might be

**34**

***Justified***