

Pastor Robert Rutta

Justification

Romans 3:23-28

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 Being **justified** freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Rom 3:26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the **justifier** of him which believeth in Jesus.

Rom 3:27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified** by faith without the deeds of the law.

Man is a sinner.

- As individuals we are sinners.

- As a race we are sinners – born in sin.

Our sin nature is passed down from Adam.

- Man must receive salvation or he has no hope

To justify is “to reckon, to declare, or to show righteous.”

It doesn't mean “to make righteous.”

Evidence: You still sin.

But, as far as God is concerned, in His eyes you are righteous.

You are justified.

In God's eyes, you are just as if you had never sinned.

Justification is God's declaration that those who trust Jesus Christ are perfectly righteous before Him.

It is a legal concept, as when a judge gives a verdict.

God is the great Judge. It is His law we have broken.

Before I am saved, God declares that I am a condemned sinner.

After I come to Christ, God declares that I am righteous because of what Christ did for me on Calvary.

Justification is being brought into a new spiritual position before God.

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We are justified by grace and through faith.

We are told that this righteousness from God is made possible because of what Jesus did for us. Rom 3:24

This verse introduces us to three great theological words:

Justify - To declare one not guilty, or to make one as he ought to be.

In the biblical sense, it means that God, in His power and in His grace declares us to be righteous and worthy of a relationship with Him.

Grace - Unmerited favour or kindness shown to one who is utterly undeserving.

It is not merely a free gift, but a free gift to those who deserve the exact opposite.

Redemption - To set at liberty after the payment of a ransom price.

To put it all together, when we received Jesus as our Saviour, God applied the price that Jesus had paid on the cross to our account and declared us righteous.

He thereby freed us from the condemnation and the consequences of our sins. He very literally set us free!

God accepts me because of my faith in what Jesus did for me at the cross.
Jesus has given me His own righteousness.

To top it all off, the Bible says in this verse that all of this happens "*freely*".

V25 brings in another important word.

Propitiation – Covering; atoning sacrifice, payment.

What this means for you and me is that since we trusted Jesus as our Saviour, God requires nothing further from us. He is absolutely satisfied.

Christ took our sins upon Himself.

He died – the just for the unjust.

Because of that, we are justified through faith in Him. v24, 26

How Is a Person Justified?

1. Justification is free (Ro. 3:24). We do not become righteous before God through good works, religious rituals, morality, law-keeping. It is a free gift.
2. Justification is because of Christ's redemption (Ro. 3:24). Justification is free because Jesus Christ paid the price with His own blood.
3. Justification is through faith in Christ (Ro. 3:25-28; 4:3-6; 5:1). Man's part in justification is to repent and to trust Jesus Christ.

A perfect illustration of justification is the Pharisee and the Publican in Luke 18:9-14.
The Pharisee went to great pains to justify himself.

Jesus had rebuked the Pharisees in Luke 16:15 for seeking to justify themselves before men.
A lawyer in Luke 10:29... "willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?"

In contrast, the Publican comes with a repentant heart and leaves justified.
He calls out for mercy.

Luk 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

➤ Because Christ died on the cross, and you believe in Him, you are formally declared to be just.

God has officially declared you to be justified.

You stand in a different relationship to Him now.

You are treated as if you never broke His law. (Past, present, or future)

You are treated as if you never sinned.

So, now you can be allowed in Heaven.

In a human law court, a guilty person can be pardoned – the crime forgiven, but not paid.
In God’s law court, that can’t be done.
Every sin must be accounted for.

A Christian is not pardoned – guilty but set free anyway.
You were justified – made as if you never sinned.
The judge can look at you and say, “Innocent.”

When we look at God’s justification, we see:

1. Forgiveness

Act 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

Act 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

You were not pardoned.
If every sin was not paid for, then you would be accountable for that sin.
Christ paid for every sin that you will ever commit.
Because you believed on Him, He paid your debt and you are forgiven.
Your record is clean.

The Law of Moses could never justify man of sin, but faith in Him does justify.

2. Imputation

Psa 32:2 Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile.

Rom 4:8 Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Imputation means “to put something against.”
(Buy on credit – purchase places against your account.)
All of our sins were put to Christ’s account.

- He was treated **as if He were** a sinner.
He Himself didn’t sin, but He was treated as if He had.
Our sin was placed on Him.
- We are treated **as if we are** righteous.
His righteousness is placed on our account.
We aren’t righteous, but in God’s eyes we are.
That is the only way to get to Heaven... God doesn’t impute sin to our record.

3. Fellowship with God.

We can fellowship with God because He looks at us through Christ’s righteousness.

We are justified in God’s sight, so He can listen to our prayers and fellowship with us.

How are we justified?

Not:

1. By works

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Your works to get salvation only reveal that you have a debt, but they don't pay the debt.

Our past sins are never atoned for by present work.

Even if you could work and remain sinless the rest of your life, you would still have the past to deal with.

2. By deeds of the Law.

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Gal 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Gal 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Gal 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

We Are justified:

1. By God Rom 3:26, 8:33

2. By Grace Rom 3:24

God gave us something we didn't deserve.

3. By Blood Rom 5:9

4. By Faith Rom 5:1

5. By the Resurrection Rom 4:25

In Rom 4:1-8 we are given a picture of Abraham and David.

Both were justified by faith, not by their works.

In God's eyes, you are just like you had never sinned. You are justified by faith.