

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 2

No 5

Series 2. Justification Is All Of God By Jesus Christ

Justification is by God's Grace, Through Our Faith

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:21-26

But Now! This section of Romans opens with the words, 'But Now.' This is what we were; but now! It not only connects this passage to what has gone before, but it contrasts the two themes. We were guilty sinners; but now we are *considered just*. We were defeated in trying, but now we are *accepted in Christ*. We were burdened by works, but now are *resting through faith*. Let's see how it works.

We begin with a word about our text book. Paul has told us in 1:16&17 that he is 'not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes (to the Jew first and also to the Greek); for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, the just shall live by faith.' He now continues that theme here in today's selection. Let us see how this works.

First, See the Problem That God

Answered. There are two sides, God's side and our side.

Remember that we learned that no one can be justified by trying to keep to the law, or the 'Golden Rule', or being religious. Try as we may, we fail. No one can keep up the standard that is set, either by themselves or well meaning religious others, or by the Law that God Himself gave. See verse 23.

There is nothing that we guilty, sinful men and women can do to make ourselves acceptable before a Holy God. We do not have the ability. This is our side of the problem.

God who is holy can only accept what is holy too. God, who is genuinely righteous, cannot overlook the sin of the guilty, for to do so would be to deny His own nature. To indulge our unholiness would render Him less than holy - not only unthinkable, but fortunately for us, impossible. This is the problem that God faced.

Second, Learn How God Answered These Problems.

Here is the way, and only way that God answered these problems:

But now, a righteousness *from* God . . . comes *through* faith *in* Jesus Christ to

all who believe. Romans 3:21&22.(NIV)
This then is how God answered the problem. He found a way to justify trusting men and women by imputing to them His own righteousness. And He did this in Christ Jesus. Here is how! We summarise:

1. God in Christ became a man, Jesus.
2. Jesus lived a life that perfectly met the demands of God's holiness.
3. Jesus offered the blood of His cross as a ransom for sin that met the demands of God's justice.
4. Based on this sacrificial death Jesus has declared His own righteousness on the behalf of all who accept it freely in faith.
5. Thereby God is both just, and the justifier of all those who are trusting in Jesus.

Do you understand these five steps and what they are telling you? If you do not go over them again and again until you do. Read Romans 3:21-26, asking God to burn it into your heart and mind so that you will never be tempted to do anything else than accept thankfully all that God has done for you in Christ. For this is the will and way of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

Third, Have You Accepted God's Gift

Freely? Have you accepted Jesus as your sin offering? If not, do it now! There is no other way whereby the demands of God's holiness may be met in terms of your own sin. God has no other plan. Simply trust Him and say, 'Thank you, Lord'. Tell Him; continue trusting and thanking and never let anyone or any thing shake your simple faith, for through that faith He has extended His righteousness to you.

Fourth, Consider These Aspects of Your Justification. Before we continue we ought to define holiness and righteousness as two sides of God's glory. Holiness is absolute. God's holiness is the righteous-ness of His being. He can never be anything else. His righteousness is His holiness in his dealing with others who are unholy. By justification we mean to make righteous. This term means to bring into line, to make one to agree with the other, us with God.

First, God's righteousness is 'apart from law' v21. Law has nothing to do with it. God's plan is in God's good grace. Never let anyone tell you that the sacrifice of Jesus makes you able to comply with the law thereby making you good enough. This idea is wrong. Read again Romans 3:21-26 and see for your self why this idea is so wrong.

Second, the law and prophet writings of the Old Testament everywhere foreshadow and anticipate what God has now done in Jesus Christ.

Third, God's provision is for all people everywhere and in all time v22&23. There is no difference. All have sinned and all

are invited to participate. All are justified (reckoned to be just) who have faith in what Jesus has done.

Fourth, The righteousness of God comes to us *through* faith in all the work of Christ Jesus. This word is from *dia*, meaning to pass right through, like a line drawn through the centre of a circle, in one side and out the other. Faith is our accepting the testimony of God as true and relying on it.

Fifth, justification is 'as a gift' to us. It has only to be paid once and Jesus paid the account for us. This is what is meant by 'redemption'.

Sixth, Jesus as propitiation in v25 this word comes from one meaning 'mercy seat'. The verse reads 'whom God set forth as a 'mercy seat' through (*dia*) faith in His blood.' Read Leviticus 16 how the blood of one goat was sprinkled on the mercy seat while the other goat was set free. The blood of Jesus sets us free through our faith.

Seventh, 'Sins that are past' Those who trusted God in the 4,000 years before Jesus died had their sins covered until their redemption in Christ. In a sense also sins that are in our past, God for a time left unpunished anticipating this redemption through faith in Christ. However all will be called to answer on the day of accounting. God is still waiting, giving more time to repent.

Eighth, this is a demonstration of God's righteousness, first in that a holy God is righteous in His dealing with unholy people, and secondly in making provision for their justification through faith in Jesus Christ.

Justification deals with one thing. It makes sin guilty people considered to be righteous. On the basis of this justification God has so much more to add to your life. Paul explains this in detail as we proceed through Romans. In summary Jesus on the basis of redemption through our faith in the blood of His cross has declared His righteousness to be reckoned to our account.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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