

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD JUSTIFIES US (III)!

FIVE THINGS ABOUT JUSTIFICATION



**WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, NOT BECAUSE OF FAITH.**

The reason, the ground, the basis for our justification is Christ, not faith. Faith is the channel, not the reason, for our justification. Sometimes, we hear people talk and teach after this manner:

*God looks down from heaven and He sees the world filled with sinful people. Then He said, 'Well, that man has not lived a perfect life, but he has faith. Alright, I will accept his faith instead of a perfect life.'* In other words, some people wrongly think that God grants salvation to people because (on account) of their faith. That is wrong because that is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that while it is faith that unites us to Christ, yet it is Christ who saves. Faith is the empty hand that lays hold of Christ. It is not faith, not even faith in Christ that saves. But it is Christ, and Him alone, who saves.



**WE ARE AS JUSTIFIED AS THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN.**

Justification is something that takes place instantly, an act completed in a moment. That is why a hymn-writer writes: *More happy but not more secure, the glorified spirits in heaven above.*

Once we are *justified*, we are *justified*. We cannot be more *justified* or less *justified*, for there are no degrees in *justification*. You can be more or less sanctified, you can grow in holiness, but that can never be true of *justification*. This is a very important truth to grasp, for if you do truly understand it, it will fill your hearts with joy and flood it with peace. It is true that some days we do live a relatively obedient life. The temptation *then* is to think that because of that, we are accepted by God or we are more acceptable to God. But the fact is that even if we have lived well, we would still not have lived well enough for God. Then, there are some days that we do live like the devil! It seems that not only do we sin with our words and thoughts and deeds on those days, but that they are filled with sinful words

and thoughts and deeds! Oh, the temptation *then* is to think that during those times, we are less acceptable to God or merely being tolerated by God. We might even think that God will not accept us at all!

Dear Christians, we need and must hear this truth, that there is no such thing as being more justified or less justified. The life that we must live it has been lived once by Christ. The death that we must die it has been died once by Christ. Once we are justified, we can never be condemned. This is the truth of **Romans 8:1**, and oh what a glorious, liberating truth!!



**WE ARE JUSTIFIED ONLY AFTER WE HAVE REPENTED AND BELIEVED.**

Justification is an act that is completed in a moment. That moment is a moment in history, not eternity. We are not justified in eternity, nor are we justified when Christ died and rose again. We are justified only after we have faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, there is no enjoyment of this blessing until we are converted.

**Galatians 2:16** ~ *knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.* Knowing this great truth, Paul says, we believe.

We will never experience it or enjoy it until we believe. Christ's perfect life is not imputed to us till we believe. Christ's death has no benefit to us till we repent. While it is important for you to know this doctrine of **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE** clearly, it is even more important that you are *justified*. And you are only *justified* if you have repented of your sins and believed in Jesus Christ.



**WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE BUT NOT BY A FAITH THAT IS ALONE.**

While we do nothing to be saved, after we are saved, we do many things showing that we are indeed saved. The first part of **Romans 8:1** is wonderful: *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which*

are in Christ Jesus. The second part of **Romans 8:1** is equally God's Word, equally important: *who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*. Listen to what God has said: *Faith without works is dead. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*. Friends, you claim to be a Christian? Is your faith a fruitful one, or a barren one?



**WE STAND OR FALL BY THIS TRUTH OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE.**

Any group of people who believes and teaches *justification by works* is no Christian Church. Any group of that believes and teaches *justification by faith* is not necessary a Christian Church. A "church" can teach *justification by faith*, and what they mean is that you are justified if you believe in Christ plus doing something else. Only a group of people who believes and teaches *justification by faith alone* is a Christian Church.

We must be clear what *justification* means. We must be adamant that a man is *justified by faith*, not on account of faith, or works; *by faith* – that is, when the sinner believes in Christ, and not before. And we must be equally dogmatic that a man is *justified by faith alone*, not *justified by faith plus good works*, or *plus baptism* or *plus anything else*. To deny this doctrine is not just an error but a heresy. As such, no co-operation is possible with any group that denies this doctrine, because we cannot even recognise them as Christian Churches in the first place. Martin Luther once said that *justification by faith alone* is the article of faith by which a church stands or falls. And it still is today! May the Lord help us to know this truth clearly, hold this truth firmly, and preach this truth boldly, for this is the very centre of the Christian Gospel.



Today, the doctrine of *Justification by faith alone* has been under attack again, both in the West as well as in Asia! Make sure you are crystal clear regarding this doctrine. Re-read "God Justifies Us (I), (II) and (III)" if needed. Ask. Clarify. For His Glory!