

SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER

JUSTIFICATION IS AN ACT COMPLETED IN A MOMENT, NOT A PROCESS THAT IS ONLY GRADUALLY COMPLETED

- You are either justified or you are not
- Once justified, you cannot become Unjustified! You are legally righteous in God's sight, forever – and free from wrath and condemnation (Rom 8:1)

NOBODY IS JUSTIFIED UNTIL HE REPENTS AND BELIEVES THE GOSPEL

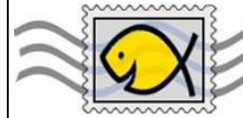
- It is God's plan to justify His people, but they are NOT IN FACT justified until they are united to Christ in conversion. Until then, they are lost (Gal 2:16; Col 1:21-22)
- Justification is not yours until you believe, but becomes yours as soon as you believe (Acts 13:38-39; Rom 3:22)

WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE, BUT NOT BY A FAITH THAT IS ALONE

- No law-keeping is necessary or possible for salvation (Rom 3:20-22)
- But the faith that justifies is NEVER alone – it is always accompanied by good works (Js 2:26)
- These works do not commend us to God – they are the fruit of faith
- Whoever God justifies He sanctifies (as we shall see), and so their lives just cannot be the same as before
- The very faith we have is God's gift, so it is clear that justification is an act of God's free grace (Rom 3:20-24, 4:16)

Today's Lesson:

The doctrine of justification by faith alone is the VERY CENTRE of the Gospel



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH AND THIS WE
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

JUSTIFICATION



“For our sake, He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (1 Cor 5:21)

JUSTIFICATION

Rom 3:21-4:5

When God calls a person by the gospel...

- that person repents and believes (as we saw in the last study)
- At the moment of faith, God **justifies** that person (Rom 8:30)

☞ JUSTIFICATION IS A DECLARATION

Justification is not something done to you, it is something said about you.

Read: Deut 25:1

1. What is God expecting of the judge when he holds court?

What is the basis of the judgement?

Therefore,

God's justice demands an honest declaration

But we are guilty! (Rom 4:5).

How can a just God declare the guilty to be righteous?

The answer lies in **imputation**.

☞ IMPUTATION

Imputation means that God has reckoned or credited to one person what originally belonged to another person

- For instance, the sin of Adam is imputed or 'laid to the account' of all Adam's race. We receive this from him, but Adam receives nothing from us
- In the case of Jesus Christ and His people there is a double imputation:

My sin is laid to His account – and He is treated as if He had sinned my sin (Read 2 Cor 5:21)

His perfect righteousness is laid to my account. God treats me as if I had never sinned. I am treated as if I had lived Christ's perfect life (Read 2 Cor 5:21 again)

☞ GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF JUSTIFICATION

"It is God who justifies" (Romans 8:33b)

- He declares us to be righteous
- Do not think that it is your faith that makes you righteous. Faith is not a 'good work' which commends us to God's favour.
- Faith is not the ground of righteousness
- The work of Jesus Christ alone is the ground of righteousness (Rom 3:24)

Therefore,

There is no other sin-bearer. Faith in Him is an INSTRUMENT ONLY – the 'hand' by which we receive the righteousness of God – NOT the source of that righteousness (Rom 5:1)

3. What is wrong with the idea that God looks upon us and says, *"You've not lived a perfect life, but, you have faith; I will accept that and forgive your failure to live a perfect life."*
