

Welcome to “Learning and Living the God-centered Life”



Carmel Baptist Church

The Doctrine of Justification

www.learningandlivingtheword.com

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"Justification by Faith Alone is the doctrine on which the Church or individual stands or falls."

The greatest problem of mankind is...

SIN

But the problem of SIN has two aspects;

1. Mankind has a bad heart (Mark 7:21-23)
2. Mankind has a bad record (James 2:10)

In the first case man is defiled by “*who he is*”

In the second case man is condemned by “*what he has done*”

The bad heart deals with the internal

The bad record deals with the external

Job 9:2 “In truth I know that this is so; But how can a man be in the right before God?”

Job 15:14 “What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?”

Job 15:15 “Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, And the heavens are not pure in His sight;

Job 15:16 How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!

Job 25:4 “How then can a man be just with God? Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?”

Job 25:5 “If even the moon has no brightness And the stars are not pure in His sight,

Job 25:6 How much less man, that maggot, And the son of man, that worm!”

Here is the greatest question that has faced
mankind throughout all of history

How can a man who is evil, wicked and
rebellious ever hope to stand before the
righteousness of God on that day?

Someone has to pay for your sin

Someone has to satisfy justice for you

The Lord Jesus saves people from their sins;

- He saves them from the penalty of their sins
- He save them form the power of their sins

1 Peter 2:24

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness...

In regard to the penalty of sin we call this justification

JUSTIFICATION

Justification is an instantaneous act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us. In so doing He declares us to be righteous in His sight.

Justification is an act of God's free grace, in which He pardons all our sins, accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Jesus Christ pays a debt that He did not owe
Because we owed a debt that we could not pay

JUSTIFICATION

So what is the "first and chief article of the Protestant faith"? Scripturally, it goes like this: All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Alienated from God, hostile in mind, we practice evil behavior (Col. 1:21). Though we offend his perfect holiness, God acquits those who trust in him and in what he has done for us through Christ: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Theologically, we understand it like this: In his perfect life and obedient death, Jesus succeeded where Adam failed and became the head of God's new family. We belong to Christ; we belong to this new humanity. Christ is judged righteous, and we who believe are made alive in him. - *Christianity today 2007*

6 essentials to know about justification

- **Justification is based on the blood of Jesus.**
- **Justify means to declare as righteous not to make righteous.**
- **Justification has no grading by degrees.**
- **Justification is both positive and negative**
- **Justification is once for all.**
- **Justification is received by faith**

OBSERVATION #1

Justification is based on the blood of Jesus

Turn to Rom. 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Turn to 1 John 1:7

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

In other words when God justifies a man, He is not looking at the man. But rather God is looking at the blood of Christ.

When God justifies a man, He does not justify based on anything in the man.

A man goes to heaven on the basis of what Someone else has done. God doesn't justify a man because he is or has become in anyway godly.

But rather we learn from **Romans 4:5**

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Do you feel unworthy of your justification?

Well if you do then you are exactly right because you in fact do not deserve it, nor have you earned it.

Everything about a man cries out against justification but God justifies on the basis the blood of Christ.

This of course includes our repentance and our faith.

But these are the “means of” but not “ground or cause for” justification

Augustus Toplady - “Rock of Ages”

“Not the labors of my hands, Can fulfill Thy
Law’s commands; Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not
atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.”