



ANCHORED TO TRUTH

FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

LESSON 7: JUSTIFICATION

Reading:

- ☐ Romans 3:21-25
- ☐ Romans 4:3-5
- ☐ Romans 4:23-25
- ☐ Romans 5:1-19
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:19-22
- ☐ Galatians 2:15-18

Anchor Verse: *Attempt to memorize the following verse.*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Introductions:

What's the most thoughtful and/or unusual gift you've ever received?

The Webster definition for the word *gift* is something given willingly to someone without payment; a present. Holidays, accomplishments, and special occasions are all usually marked with the giving of some sort of gift. We spend many hours and dollars trying to find the perfect gift that will show the recipient just how much we love and care for them.

The God of the Universe, who spoke everything into existence, demonstrated His great love for you when He gave His greatest gift to the world and all you need to do is receive it. The doctrine of justification is foundational to the Christian faith.

God's Call To Be Justified:

It can be intimidating to find out that we owe a great debt to a Holy God. Luckily, Scripture tells us that God is rich in mercy and grace, and He did not leave us dead in our trespasses. What was impossible for us to do for ourselves, He has made possible through Jesus Christ.

[A]nd are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:24-25

The word *justify* in the Bible means to be legally declared righteous. We are made righteous by nothing that we have done, but by the work of Jesus Christ. God the Father sent Jesus, God the Son, to live the perfect life according to the law and to live God's created design and purpose. Then God placed the sin of the world on Jesus, and He died a sinner's death. He paid the penalty we owed for our sin. Finally, He rose on the third day, defeating sin and death. Now all who believe receive Christ's righteousness and no longer owe a penalty for their sin.



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Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:18-19

It is a beautiful thing to recognize your human depravity and absolute need for God, to cry out for Him to save you from your sin, and to trust Him for your salvation, knowing you can't save yourself.

But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Romans 4:23-25

When received, God's justification is a once and for all free gift to all who believe. It is not something we work for, and it can't be taken away.

[Y]et we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 2:16

Jesus Sighting:

Jesus is our justifier.

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. Romans 4:3-5

Reflection:

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for your past, present and future sin?
Have you received God's gift of justification?

Next Lesson:

What now?