

THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

TEXT: (Romans 5:1-11, NIV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

INTRODUCTION

1. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8, KJV).

I. MAN'S NEED OF JUSTIFICATION

A. Unrighteous by Nature

1. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NIV).
2. "As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one'" (Romans 3:11-12, NIV).
3. "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:3, NIV).

II. GOD'S GIFT OF JUSTIFICATION

A. Justification

1. "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1, NIV).
2. "Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe" (Galatians 3:21-22, NIV).
3. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (II Corinthians 5:21, NIV).

B. Without Works

1. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).

2. "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him" (Romans 4:7-8, NIV).
3. "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter" (Proverbs 25:2, NIV).
4. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:1-4, NIV).

C. By Faith

1. "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?" (James 2:14, NIV).
2. "I will show you my faith by what I do" (James 2:18, NIV).
3. "With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day" (Acts 2:40-41, NIV).
4. "Buried with [Christ] in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised [Christ] from the dead" (Colossians 3:12, KJV).
5. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1, NIV).

D. Reconciling Works and Faith

1. "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former" (Matthew 23:23, NIV).
2. "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17, NIV).
3. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV).

III. RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION

A. Justification Removes the Remembrance of Sin from God's Mind

1. "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit" (Psalm 32:1-2, NIV).
2. "Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'
'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin'" (John 8:10-11, NIV).

3. "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17, KJV).
4. "Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:9-11, NLT).

B. Results in Peace

1. "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2, NIV).
2. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).
3. "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God" (Psalm 42:1-2, NIV)?
4. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NIV).

C. Justification Does Not Grant Permission to Continue in Sin

1. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (Romans 6:1-2, KJV)?
2. "Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace" (Romans 6:12-14, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love" (Micah 7:19-20, NLT).