



Justification by Faith

BY

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An age-old dilemma



God is righteous and I am sinful, “How can I be justified and be righteous before a holy and righteous God?”

The word “Justified”



- Comes in many forms: dikios, dikaioo, dikaiosune, but it's the same thing.
- It's translated in the Bible: justification, just, right, righteous, righteousness, justify, justified, all those terms translate the same word.
- It is a legal term, and means to declare one not guilty.
- The opposite of justification is condemnation.
- For example, to condemn is to declare someone guilty. To justify is to declare someone not guilty, innocent, righteous.
- In the Bible, justification refers to God's free and gracious act by which He puts a sinner right with Him, forgiving him, pardoning him and accepting him.

How is one justified?



- Not by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus
 - Note he says three times in verses 16 that we are not saved by the works of the law but by faith in Christ.

Paul is saying



- That works are not the basis of our salvation
 - Grace is the BASIS of salvation
 - Jesus is the MEANS of salvation
 - Faith is the CONDITION of salvation
 - The Law's purpose is to point out our NEED for salvation

Paul is saying



- That we are not justified by the law, any law system
 - Because the only way to be justified by the law is to keep it perfectly (Acts 15:7-11)
 - Justification by law-keeping would nullify the death of Jesus (2:15-21)

Paul is saying



- That salvation comes through faith in Christ – faith in His sacrificial death on the cross

Some add “only” to faith



- What kind of faith is Paul talking about?
 - Faith that is mere “intellectual belief? Faith without works? Faith without obedience?

What kind of faith?



- Faith that expresses itself in obedience (Jas. 2:14-26; Heb. 11)
- Faith that trusts Jesus for forgiveness (Gal. 2:16; 1 Jno. 1:7, 9)
- Faith that transforms (Gal. 2:20)

Gal. 2:20



I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.