

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 3:21-26

- *Oh the Deep, Deep Love*
- *518, My Savior's Love*
- *173, What Wondrous Love is this*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

The meaning and blessings of Salvation! #3

Justified: The believer's right standing with God, by faith

Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 3:19-30

Sending prayer

April 2, Palm Sunday, Communion and Pot-Luck

April 7, Good Friday Service at GBF with UBC here

April 9, Easter Sunday!

April 14, Mendo-Lake Womens' Clinic Concert

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

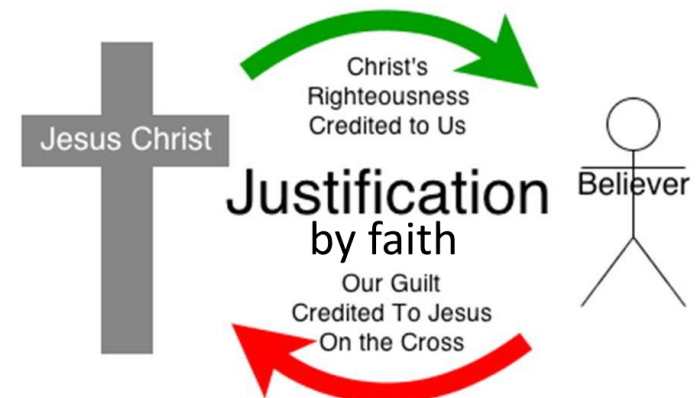
642 Ellen Lynn, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

(707) 485-7713 www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org



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- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

The meaning and blessings of Salvation! #3

Justified: The believer's right standing with God, by faith

Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 3:19-30

- March 26th, 2023 -

The meaning and blessings of Salvation! #3

Justified: The believer's right standing with God, by faith

Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 3:19-30

Early in WWII a group of American soldiers on an island in the South Pacific were captured by an overwhelming Japanese force. They were held prisoner along with many British soldiers for many months. To pass the time they organized classes and lectures. One class was on American History, taught by a British officer who was a professor of history. Imagine seeing our American experience from a British perspective! Perspective is important!

The other day Vern and I were visited by a couple of JW ladies. In discussing the definition of faith the main spokesperson asked, "How would God know that we have faith unless He sees us doing works?" Now that lady didn't understand justification by faith! From God's perspective He sees and knows our deepest thoughts and He knows, without seeing any works on our part whether we have placed our faith, our trust, in Him and His Son's finished work. God, from his seat as Judge has declared believers once and for all justified, or perfectly righteous. In justification it is God's perspective and declaration that makes the believer right with God. He, being God, need see nothing else, including our good works, to declare it so.

Justification by faith is a concept found early in the OT. Genesis 15:1-6 give us a good initial picture of the basics of justification:

Abraham believed what God had revealed about Himself and that He would be faithful to deliver on His promises to Abraham. In response to Abraham's belief or faith, God credited the unrighteous sinner, Abraham, with righteousness. The text does not say that Abraham's actions made him less a sinner or more righteous. In other words, it wasn't any good deeds or works inherent in Abraham that God saw. It was purely Abraham's belief in and reliance on the Lord's promises. Abraham passively received the promises, as with an open hand of faith from the Great Promiser, and that open hand was credited or imputed to Abraham by God as if Abraham were righteous!

So we see from this text that justification is a transaction that occurs in the courtroom of Heaven by the great Judge. It actually exists, and is from the divine perspective (not earthly or peer-to-peer), it is a legal record "credited" to our account in the heavenly courtroom, and is *external to the believer*. The text doesn't say that Abraham became a better man spiritually or morally here. This is important to the doctrine of justification. God did not credit Abraham based on His good performance, but solely based on Abraham's belief that God Himself would do the performing!

Justification is in the OT, *but it is more fully explained in the NT, esp by Paul.*

The Spirit in Paul spoke in Romans 4:1-8 explaining what happened to Abraham in Genesis 15. It is there we also find two moral/spiritual qualifications for a person to be able to be justified by God: *Does not work, and ungodly*. The one who relies on good works and godliness need not apply! They are self-justifying, which gets no traction in God's courtroom.

Our main text: Romans 3:19-30. And I want to call your attention to a vital point found here: Justification of sinners by faith here is about what God the Father does, and it for His glory. ***His righteousness is on display here!*** Not ours or even primarily the benefit to us, and surprisingly, the Son, Jesus is less the focus in this passage that is the *demonstration of God the Father's righteousness! That is what is on display! While we see the cross from a human point of view, Paul's words here enable us to view the cross from up there: God's point of view.* The way we live as Christians is greatly influenced by **this significant difference in perspective.** A life-changing truth is taught in this marvelous text. Let us consider it carefully, and diligently seek to understand our salvation justification from God's point of view.

Some results of justification: Rom. 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom. 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.