

## Justified by Faith

**Introduction:** Today we embark upon a series that will lead us up to the Advent Season (Romans 5-8)

Book of Romans has been called:

“The inner sanctuary within the cathedral of the Christian faith.”

“The tree of life in the midst of the Garden of Eden.”

- We will focus our attention on Chapter 5-8
- We will explore the truth and implications of being justified by faith
- We will seek to understand more fully our security in Christ
- Should lead us to a deep and more profound assurance
- Should stir us to greater and more passionate worship
- Should motivate us to more urgent and enthusiastic vision, service, and evangelism

Before we jump into our text—must grapple briefly with the earlier chapters...

- Chapters 1-3—Paul makes it clear that all of humanity is sinful, lost, and destined for eternal judgment.
- This includes both Jew and Gentiles—ALL HUMANITY
- A. Paul explains that all humanity has squandered any revelation they have received from God and suppressed truth.

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

**Romans 1:18-21 NKJV**

NOTE: They are without excuse

B. Even the Jew, with the law and covenants is guilty before God.

*What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." Romans 3:9-12 NKJV*

C. All humanity is shut up to sin and guilty before God

*Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:19-20 NKJV*

D. And all have sinned and are worthy of only death

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 NKJV*

But, the hope is laid out by Paul

*But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26 NKJV*

Three words that are key to our understanding:

### Righteousness

- Dikaiosyne (dee-ka-a-soon'-ay)
- Dikaiosyne theos-righteousness of God
- Act of God in Christ at Calvary that makes us righteous

### Righteous

- Dikaïos (di-ky-os)
- Guiltless-acceptable to God

*As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one. Romans 3:10 NKJV*

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19 NKJV*

### Justified

- Dikaioo (dee-ka-a □)—to be rendered righteous, guiltless
- To render righteous

*Therefore, having been justified by faith. Romans 5:1a NKJV*

### I. The Revelation of our Justification

#### A. The meaning—to be rendered righteous or guiltless

1. Acquitted of one's sinfulness
2. JUST-AS-IF-I'D—NEVER SINNED

#### B. For Abraham—he believed and righteousness was accounted to him

1. Accounted—lo g□ -za-my (logizomai)
2. Calculated, counted for, placed into his account

#### C. Also for us—not just Abraham

*Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. Romans 4:23-24 NKJV*

NOTE: Imputed—same word

#### D. Justification is a past act for Roman believers

1. 5:1 "Having been justified"—past tense
2. Not a process, but an act
3. Having been acquitted—righteousness calculated for you is already done
4. For us who believed too

#### E. It is an act—NOT a process (like sanctification)

## II. Initiative of our Justification

### A. A divine act of God

*Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Romans 8:33 NKJV*

### B. Father did this by handing Jesus over

*But also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:24-25 NKJV*

1. "Delivered up" paradidomi (para-did'-o-me) "handed over"

*Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." Matthew 26:48 NKJV*

(Betrayer)

*And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Matthew 27:2 NKJV*

*Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. Matthew 27:26 NKJV*

2. Father delivered Him up

C. NOTE: The death of Jesus provided the necessary grounds upon which the act of justification could proceed

D. So His resurrection, by vindicating Christ and freeing him forever from the influence of sin, provides the ongoing power over sins experienced by the believer, in unity with Christ."

### III. The Appropriation of our Justification

NOTE: Romans 4 describes how justification is appropriated (by faith) through the example of Abraham.

#### A. Background of Abraham's righteousness

*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:1-6 NKJV*

*What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Romans 4:1-3 NKJV*

#### B. Faith for Abraham was not just mental assent

1. Refused to accept what he saw in the present as the final word.

*And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. Romans 4:19 NKJV*

2. Instead, he embraced with assurance what he could not see.

*(As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed — God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did. Romans 4:17 NKJV*

3. Believed in the exclusive ability of God to provide what He had promised.

*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. Romans 4:20-21 NKJV*

C. We too are justified by the same means.

*Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. Romans 4:23-24 NKJV*

1. Refuse to accept sin, spiritual death, loss, as final word
2. Instead I embrace His righteousness though I cannot see
3. Believe (because of the resurrection of Christ) that He can do what He said He would do.

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Jude 24 NKJV*

#### IV. Certainty of our Justification

A. If tempted to doubt—I look away and see the Risen Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father.

*Who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:25 NKJV*

*When Satan tempts me to despair; and tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.*

- B. God can be trusted to keep His commitment to those who believe.
- C. His commitment to our salvation far surpasses my ability to always remain faithful

*If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV*

#### Conclusion:

*“The verdict of justification, which Jews relegated to the day of judgment, has, Paul proclaims, already been rendered over the person who believes in Jesus. But can that verdict, “hidden” to the senses, guarantee that one will be delivered from God’s wrath when it is poured out in the judgment? Yes, affirms Paul. Nothing can stand in its way: not death (5:12-21), not sin (chapter 6), not the Law (chapter 7)—nothing! (Chapter 8). What God has begun, having justified and reconciled us, he will bring to a triumphant conclusion, and save us from wrath. Douglass Moo*

- Can I ever lose it?
- Accomplished by faith—not sinlessness
- Could make a choice I no longer believe
- But as long as active, authentic faith, I stand secure in His grace!