



12 December 2021

### GOLDEN CHAIN of GRACE (PART 5)

Romans 3:21-31; Romans 8:28-30

Romans 3:9-20; James 2:14-26

**Do You Know God? GOD IS ETERNAL!**

**Do You Know Yourself?** Do you know yourself as God knows you?

**WARNING:** To receive God's grace and ignore His commands is the height of arrogance, greed, and selfishness!

**The GOLDEN CHAIN of Grace** (Romans 8:28-30)

- (v. 28) Do you love God? How? (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
- (vv. 29-30) THE GOLDEN (Amazing) CHAIN of God's Grace!

- ① **HE** foreknew . . .
- ② **HE** predestined . . .
- ③ **HE** called . . .
- ④ **HE** justified . . .
- ⑤ **HE** glorified . . .

# HE

### GOD Foreknew (Chose)

→ **Have you made your election sure?** (2 Peter 1:10)

### Because God Chose (Elected) He Predestined!

→ **Are you growing daily as a disciple of Christ?** (2 Cor 3:18; Philip 2:12-13)

### God Calls Those Who Are His (Romans 8:28, 30)

- (John 10:26-29) Christ taught, "My sheep (the ones given Me by the Father, in contrast to v. 26) hear My voice, . . .

→ **Are you walking worthy of your calling?** (Eph 4:1; Col 1:9-11)

### Because God Foreknew, Predestined, and Called - He Justified

### JUSTIFICATION: A Declaration of THE Judge

- Justification is a DECLARATION of RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- It is the SENTENCE of the Supreme Judge of All the Earth.

## What Justification Is NOT

- ① It is NOT regeneration (“born-again”).
- ② It is NOT sanctification. (“being conformed into the image of God”)

## Problems with the Doctrine of Justification

- ❶ The requirements of God’s Law.
- ❷ God declares us GROSSLY GUILTY. (See Isaiah 1:2-6)
- ❸ The sentence of the Law. (See Galatians 3:10; Ezek 18:4; Romans 6:23)
- ❹ God is an INFLEXIBLE Judge.
  - God is not a respecter of persons. (1 Peter 1:17; Rom. 2:11; Acts 10:34)
  - God will “by no means clear the guilty.” (Exod 34:7; **23:7**; Num 14:18-23)
  - God accepts NO excuses.
- ❺ We are unquestionably guilty. (Romans 3:10, 12, 19; Gen 6:8; 8:21)

## The Problem Stated

- How can a holy, holy, holy God declare a sinner righteous?

## How God Is Just and the Justifier (Romans 3:23-26)

- One of the most profound passages of the Bible:
  - (v. 23) ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (1 Cor 6:20)
  - (v. 24) God’s people are justified (declared righteous) “freely by His (God’s) grace”. The Greek word for “**freely**” is translated as “without cause” in John 15:25.
  - (v. 24) Justification is through the REDEMPTION that is in Jesus Christ.
  - (v. 25) GOD sent His Son to be a PROPITIATION by His blood through faith. “To propitiate” is to appease the anger of God.
  - (v. 25) GOD had (in the past) PASSED OVER sins! (See 2 Samuel 12:13)
  - (v. 26) GOD did this to DEMONSTRATE (to show) His RIGHTEOUSNESS that He might be JUST and the JUSTIFIER.

## How Did God Be Just and Be the Justifier (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- God **ordained (appointed)** Jesus to be the HEAD (or representative) of His people, just as He had ordained (appointed ) Adam to be the HEAD (or representative) of “his” people.
- As Adam LIVED as our representative, so too, Christ LIVED **and** DIED as our representative. (Romans 5:15-18)
- A careful look at 2 Corinthians 5:21:
  - **GOD** is the subject of this verse. GOD is in control and GOD is doing the WORK.

- Here, GOD is **imputing** our sins unto Christ (Isaiah 53:6) and, in like manner, **imputing** God's (Christ's) obedience or righteousness unto us! (**Romans 5:18**)
  - Just as Christ KNEW or had no sin of His own, so we “knew” or had no righteousness of our own.
  - Christ was MADE SIN by having our sins placed on His account, and it was not by any criminal conduct of His own that He was “made sin”.
  - **SO TOO**, it is NOT by any pious act of our own that we become “righteous”.
  - Christ was NOT “made sin” by an infusion of DEPRAVITY, **NOR** are we “made righteous” by the infusion of holiness.
  - As GOD dealt with Christ “as” a sinner or, worse yet, a “mass of sins” in justice, **so too**, GOD deals with us “as” righteous” persons in justice.
  - Though GOD is the One here “making” Christ sin, we must also remember that Christ ACCEPTED this mission from the Father — see Hebrews 10:7.
- ★ (Psalm 69:5) **DID MY SIN BECOME CHRIST’S SIN? (MEDITATE HARD!)**
  - ★ (Hebrews 7:22) By this promise Jesus became the SURETY (Guarantee) of the BETTER COVENANT!
    - A SURETY is one who **agrees** to undertake for another who is lacking the **ability** to discharge his own **obligations**.
    - CHRIST **agreed** to meet all the requirements of the BETTER ETERNAL/EVERLASTING COVENANT **for His people**.

## How Do I Know If I Have Been Justified? (Turn to James 2:14-26)

- (v. 14) The key word in this verse is “says”. James is confronting an EMPTY PROFESSION.
- (vv. 15-17) James uses these verses to compare EMPTY LOVE with EMPTY FAITH.
  - “Faith **works** by love.” (Galatians 5:6)
  - “If a man loves Me (Christ), he **will keep** My commandments.” (John 14:23)
  - (1 John 3:17) Real love **WORKS!** Real faith **WORKS!**
  - Faith does not work alone! It is always accompanied by all of God’s other graces and fruits (Galatians 5:22-23).
  - Works without faith is dead! (**Hebrews 9:14**) – so too, “Faith without works is dead.” **Faith without obedience to God’s written Word is DEAD.**
- (v. 18) The key word in this verse is “**show**”. “Actions speak louder than words!” **Faith is DEMONSTRATED!** Faith is SEEN by others!
- (v. 19) James anticipated a OBJECTION like, “But I do believe in the LORD!” - James argues with but so do demons (Mark 1:24; 5:7; **Matt. 8:29**; Luke 8:28) and the devil! **Their “faith” does not save them.**
- (v. 20) Connect the “foolish man” in this verse with Matthew 7:26-27.

- (vv. 20-25) James uses two examples from the Old Testament that show that true faith works! - Abraham and Rahab.
- (v. 26) A body without a spirit is a breathless carcass. So too, **faith without works is dead!!** A body cannot live without a spirit. Faith cannot be faith without works.

## Justification is **ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE, and FINAL**

- “It is GOD who justifies!” (Romans 8:33) – He is the SUPREME JUDGE.
- Whatever GOD does it is FOREVER – nothing can be ADDED to it and nothing can be TAKEN AWAY from it. – Ecclesiastes 3:14
- Those who are justified are justified from **all things!** (Acts 13:38-39)
- Whomever GOD justifies, He glorifies! (**NO EXCEPTIONS**) Romans 8:30.
- There is **NOW NO CONDEMNATION** for those IN CHRIST. Romans 8:1
  - Justification happens to those who were once UNDER CONDEMNATION (John 3:18) and NOW are UNDER NO CONDEMNATION.
- What God has done, NO ONE can REVERSE it!! Isaiah 14:27; 43:13
- The sentence of the LAW – “Thou shalt surely die” **cannot** be executed upon the sinner’s SURETY **and** the sinner.
  - ★ The “sinner” cannot be held responsible for sin that is NOT on his record.
- A person who has been justified has been given ETERNAL LIFE! (John 5:24)
  - A person with ETERNAL LIFE can **never** DIE! (John 11:26)
- Christ has PROMISED that He will **never** leave or forsake His own. (Heb. 13:5)
- Those who are JUSTIFIED are GIVEN **GOD righteousness** as a GIFT. (Romans 5:17; see also Isaiah 61:10)
- Those who are justified are **SEALED** with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5)

## God’s Business and Our Business (Deuteronomy 29:29)

- God’s business: ELECTION; PREDESTINATION; CALLING; JUSTIFYING, GRACE.
- Our business:
  - ① **Continually REPENT** of our daily sins. (Mark 1:14-15)
    - BY OBEYING GOD’S WRITTEN WORD.
  - ② **Continually BELIEVE (TRUST)** God. (Mark 1:14-15)
    - Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6; Rom 4:3-6; Gal 3:6; James 2:23)
  - ③ **PRACTICE the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God.** (1 John 2:29-3:10)
    - “Righteousness” is defined by God’s commandments.
    - “Righteousness” is defined by God’s **written** Word.
    - Those who are born-again, the children of God, *practice* (literally in the Greek “do”) God’s commandments. Their *overwhelming* desire is to be *fully pleasing* to God.