

Justification

JUSTIFICATION is an act of God¹ by which He, in accordance to his Sovereign will, pleasure and purpose, imputed (put to one's account) the sins of elect persons unto Christ²; imputes the righteousness of Christ to a sinner³, and declares the sinner righteous on the basis of the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ alone.

Through the perfect obedience⁴ and death of Christ⁵, His righteousness is credited to the believer's account. Christ's own merits thus become the ground on which the believer stands before God⁶ and it is on this basis that he – the believer, is justified. By these means God demonstrates his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus".⁷

Justification is freely given by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus⁸ and is absolutely independent of any virtue or work of man.⁹ It is by faith in Christ¹⁰; faith not of themselves, it is the gift of God.¹¹ Justification involves a forensic declaration; it is an instantaneous act which is complete once and for all time. It applies to all sins, past, present, and future.¹² Consequently, we have peace with God¹³; we have access to God¹⁴; we rejoice in hope of the glory of God¹⁵ and we glory in tribulation.¹⁶

¹ 1Romans 3:24; 8:30, 33

² Isaiah 43:25; 53:6; Romans 5:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; See the doctrinal paper on Election

³ 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21

⁴ Romans 5:19

⁵ Romans 4:25; 5:9-10

⁶ Romans 5:17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:30

⁷ Romans 3:26

⁸ Ephesians 1:7

⁹ Romans 4:5-6; Titus 3:5

¹⁰ Romans 3:22; 4:5, 24; 5:1; 10:4, 10; Acts 13:38–39; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9

¹¹ Ephesians 2:8-9

¹² Psalms 103:12; 32:1-2; Isaiah 44:22; Romans 4:6-8; 5:21; 8:1, 32-34; Hebrews 10:14

¹³ Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20-22

¹⁴ Romans 5:2; Ephesians 3:11, 12; Hebrews 10:19; 1 Peter 3:18

¹⁵ Romans 5:2; 8:30; Colossians 3:4

¹⁶ Romans 5:3; 2 Corinthians 12:10