

Justification

The believing sinner is declared righteous in Christ the moment he puts his faith in the Person and work of God's only Saviour.

Though the enemies of the cross ever seek to attack and deny the truth of free justification by grace, the Bible boldly affirms and declares it. This glorious doctrine can be viewed from at least ten different windows:

1. The *Need* of Justification: All men lack and need the righteousness of God (Rom. 3:10; Isa. 64:6).
2. The *Meaning* of Justification: the term means "to declare or to pronounce righteous" (*not* "to make righteous"). It is a judicial term (Deut. 25:1) and its opposite is "condemnation" (Rom. 5:16-19).
3. The *Problem* of Justification: How can God be just and at the same time justify the believing sinner? (Rom. 3:26; Rom. 4:5). This is a problem that only the grace of God could solve.
4. The *Basis* of Justification: "justified *by His blood*" (Rom. 5:9). The cross-work of Christ is the one and only basis for justification (2 Cor. 5:21).
5. The *Source* of Justification: "justified freely *by His grace*" (Rom. 3:24). It's all of God and all of grace!
6. The *Channel* of Justification: "justified *by faith*" (Rom. 3:28; 5:1). The free gift of God's righteousness must be received and personally appropriated (Rom. 5:17).
7. The *Example* of Justification: "Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4).
8. The *Result* of Justification: God's perfect righteousness is put to the account of the believing sinner. As a result he is free from condemnation and has peace with God (Rom. 4:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:7; Rom. 5:1; 8:1).
9. The *Evidence* of Justification: "justified *by works*" (James 2:14-22). This is how Christians "show their faith" and prove to men the reality of their justification.
10. The *Hope* (future expectation) of Justification: "whom He justified; them He also *glorified*" (Rom. 8:30). It is guaranteed and in the mind of God it is already done!