

**Romans #6**  
**Justification by Faith**  
Romans 3:20-26

As we continue our study from the book of Romans, we have come to a vital part of Paul's letter where he is determined to help us realize that we are justified by faith and not by the deeds of the Law.

**To better understand Paul's driving force here, we need to realize that Paul was all the time having to combat the forces of Judaism that were trying to creep into the Church.** And one of their main doctrines was that you could *not be perfected* without the works of the Law. And Paul argues that if the performance of works could have justified man before God, then Jesus would not have had to die. **But Hebrews 9:22 reminds us** "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

**Therefore, this week we are going to take a look at the doctrine of justification.** Look at verses 20-26, "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

**In our study thus far, we have seen that sin ruined man, rendering him utterly unable to help himself.** The Jew as well as the Gentile could do nothing to make himself acceptable to a holy and righteous God. But in this hour of hopelessness came a ray of hope, for God, because of His love and compassion, found a way of redemption for mankind. **But verses 25-26 tells us,** "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, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Salvation then is based on faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, as seen in John 3:14-17, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

But you will notice that we have been told in verse 26 that God not only offers salvation for those who believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ, but also is the "justifier of him who believeth in Jesus." **Justification cannot be separated from conversion, for they are tied together into one momentous act that takes place when a helpless sinner places his faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.** In conversion man receives a new life, as seen in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." In

*justification* man receives a new standing, as seen in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." **Once more then, in conversion man receives a new lift and a new nature; in *justification* a man receives a new standing. Therefore, justification is an *act* and not a *process*. There are no degrees of justification all the saved are justified.**

**Look with me at some of the things that are involved in *justification*.**

**1. There is the remission of sins.** Verse 25 says, "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."

You see the penalty for sin is death as seen in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned." **Therefore, if a man is to be saved, this penalty of sin must be removed, but if "all have sinned," then man was helpless.** But we have been told in Hebrews 4:15-16, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." That is the reason that Paul could preach as he did in Acts 13:38-39a, "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things..."

**2. There is the restoration to favor with God.** Verse 28 says, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." You see, the sinner has not merely fallen under the penalty of sin, but has lost the favor with God, as seen in John 3:18, "He that believes on him is not condemned; but he that does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." And once more in John 3:36, "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; and he that does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." **In other words, the child of God not only has his sin forgiven, but because of his faith in Jesus Christ stands before God acquitted.**

**3. There is the imputation of righteousness.** Verse 26 says, "To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." You see we have been told already in Romans 3:10-12, "As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

But once more, our faith in Jesus Christ makes the difference, as seen in 1 Corinthians 1:30, "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption." And in 2 Corinthians 5:21 we are told "that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." **In other words, God restores us to favor by imputing to us Christ's righteousness!**

**There are some biblical truths that you and I need to be aware of if we are to understand just how one might be justified.**

**1. It is not by the works of the law.** Verse 20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin." You see, since no man (except for Christ) has ever lived the perfect life, the

law served the sentence of "guilty" to all mankind, as seen in verse 19, "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."

**God did not give the law to save men.** The law has never saved a man and the law never will save a man, and that is the reason we have been told in Romans 10:4, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes."

**2. We are justified by God's grace.** Verse 24 says, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." This is what we have been told in Titus 3:7, "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Justification originates in the heart of God, because of the love of God, as seen in I John 4:10. "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." You see, **God was under no obligation to make us righteous, but because of His grace He looked past our sin and loved the sinner.**

**3. Justification is through the blood of Christ.** Verse 24 says, "...through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe." But in Romans 5:9 this truth is brought out a little more clear, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." It was not the *holiness* and *purity* of Jesus that brought us salvation, but His blood, as seen in Hebrews 2:9, "But we see Jesus,, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." **Christ's mission was one of death.** Although He was the world's greatest *preacher*, His mission was not to preach. Although He was the world's greatest *doctor*, His mission was not to heal. **Although He was the world's greatest prophet, His mission was not to prophesy.** But in the words of Christ himself, we are told in John 10:17-18, "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." **Every step Jesus made led Him to Calvary to spill His blood for the sins of mankind and to make a way for our justification.**

**4. Justification is through faith in the finished work of Christ.** Verse 26 says that God is "the justifier of him who believes in Jesus." Once more in Romans 5:1 we have been told, "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." And in Galatians 2:16 we are told, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ,, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ." In other words, **"faith" is the means of justification.**

**But what do I mean by the statement: faith is the means of justification?** Simply this: although Christ was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, shed His blood on the cross for sinners, and was raised again the third day, and now "forever lives to make intercession for the saints," there are multiplied millions of people still on their way to hell this very hour. You see, we have been told in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." **A person must believe the record that God has given concerning His Son.** A person must realize that he is guilty before God and stands in need of salvation. For a person to be saved, he must simply believe God and ask for salvation.

If you are not saved, why not tonight?