**Our God Has Justified Us**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 5:6-9**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 17, 2024**

**Romans 5:6-9**

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

**1. A Just God**

Saints, when we say that God is just, we mean that He is perfectly righteous in His treatment of His creation. God shows no partiality,

**Acts 10:34**

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

God commands against the mistreatment of others,

**Zecheriah 7:10**

“Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'

and He perfectly executes vengeance against the oppressors:

**2 Thessalonians 1:6**

since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

**Romans 12:19**

“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord”

Saints, God is just in meting out rewards: “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them”

**Hebrews 6:10**

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Saints, He is equally just in meting out punishments:

**Colossians 3:25**

“But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality”

**Psalm 89:14**

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face”

**2. Justification**

Properly understood, justification has to do with God’s declaration about the sinner, not any change within the sinner.

That is, justification, per se, does not make anyone holy; it simply declares him to be not guilty before God and therefore treated as holy.

The actual change toward holiness in the sinner occurs with sanctification, which is related to justification but, for definition’s sake, distinct from it.

A key passage describing justification in relation to believers is

**Romans 3:21-26**

21 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.

Saints, as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” Several important facts about justification are to be noted:

**1. Justification comes apart from the Law**

We cannot earn justification through rule-keeping or our own good works

**2. Justification is made possible in the Sacrificial Death of Christ**

Only Through the shed blood of Christ

**3. Justification is the free and gracious gift of God**

It is bestowed on those who receive by faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

**4. Justification demonstrates the righteousness of God**

It’s the Favor of God upon our lives

Saints, God’s justification of the sinner are several things:

**1. The remission of the penalty of sin, which was Death**

**Romans 3:23**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

**1 Peter 2:24**

“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed”

**2. The restoration to God’s favor, which had been lost due to our Sin**

**John 3:36**

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Saints, justification is more than an acquittal; it is full acceptance. We are now friends of God

**James 2:23**

And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

**Romans 8:17**

“and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”

**3. The imputation of righteousness, which is the reckoning of Christ’s righteousness to our account**

The Definition of Imputation: the righteousness of Christ is imputed to them that believe in him, and our sins are imputed to Christ, i.e., he assumed our "law-place," undertook to answer the demands of justice for our sins. In all these cases the nature of imputation is the same

**Romans 4:5-8**

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

Saints, we are declared to be righteous forensically (legally) because

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”

Saints, we are justified, declared righteous, at the moment of our salvation. Jesus Christ finished the work required for our justification on the cross.

**Romans 5:9**

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”

Jesus was then:

**Romans 4:25**

“who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification”

The question arises Saints,

**“Is justification just?**

**If He is holy, how can God forgive a guilty sinner?”**

Saints, the answer is that justification does not excuse our sin, ignore our sin, or endorse our sin.

Rather, our sin is fully punished, Christ having taken our penalty for us. He was our substitute.

**1 Peter 3:18**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit…

**Justification Removes our Condemnation**

Saints, the wrath of God is satisfied in Christ:

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Saints, we are now free from condemnation:

**Romans 8:1**

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”

Saints, God remains both “fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight.

**Romans 3:26 (NLT)**

for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Saints, because God justifies us by grace through faith in Christ,

**Romans 5:1**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Saints, like Joshua the priest, we have been stripped of our “filthy clothes”:

**Zecheriah 3:4**

Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."

And Saints, like the prodigal son in the parable, we are now clothed with “the best robe”

**Luke 15:17-24**

17 But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Saints, God the Father sees us as perfect and unblemished, and we are to be devoted “to doing what is good”

**Titus 3:14**

“And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful”

In Closing:

**Romans 5:18-19**

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense (Adam’s Sin) judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act (Jesus Christ) the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**