

42. The Book of Romans 3:29-30

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(2-14-24)

Find this weeks' Study Audio & Video [Here](#)

In our study in Romans, we are currently in the second major section of the book—a section that runs from 3:21-5:21. This section is dealing with one of the most important doctrines in the Christian faith—the doctrine of **'Justification.'**

In this section Paul is basically telling us how fallen sinners can be made right with God—and it's not according to our works or the law—but as a gift made possible by the atoning work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross.

And because of what Jesus did on our behalf, God is able to offer justification (salvation) as a gift—a gift He is offering to everyone freely and all they have to do is receive it by faith. But here's the problem—there are 2 kinds of faith: *true* faith and *false* faith—genuine faith and counterfeit faith.

So, how can we know that our faith is genuine—that it is true saving faith?

In our previous studies we've already looked at the qualities that *don't* prove saving faith—which then brought us last week to the qualities of true saving faith.

Qualities of true saving faith

1. An all-consuming love for God (not for religion)
2. Genuine repentance (not simply remorse or regret) coupled with a hatred of sin
3. Genuine humility
4. Desire to glorify God above all else
5. A heart for prayer
6. A love for fellow Christians (the whole Body of Christ, not just your church or denomination)
7. Separation from the world

2 Corinthians 6:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

(We're in the world but not of the world)

1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

8. Spiritual growth/fruit**Matthew 13:3–9, 18-23 (NKJV)**

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”...

¹⁸ “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Jesus said we would know the true from the false by their fruit—‘*fruit*’ not ‘*foliage*’ is the mark of genuine faith. A person can’t be dead in trespasses and sins and bring forth the Fruit of the Spirit (life).

9. Obedient living**John 10:27 (NLT)**

²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow Me...

1 John 2:3–5 (NKJV)

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

At this point, I’d like to turn our attention to the doctrine of justification since that is the main theme of this section. The basic idea of justification is how fallen men and women are made right with God—or in other words, how they are made acceptable to God and enabled to have fellowship with Him (both now and forever).

Now with regard to our study tonight, let me say that—there are 2 aspects to biblical justification that we need to understand.

1. Justification involves a declaration

It is God saying—*“Based upon the merit of My Son, Jesus Christ, based upon the death of My Son, based upon the righteousness of My Son, and your faith in My Son—I declare you to be justified (right with Me).”*

Romans 4:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also.

Paul tells us that the righteousness of God isn't *earned* it is imputed.

The Greek word translated '**imputed**' is a banking term that means *“to put to one's account”* (think of a digital money transfer from one account to another). However, we need to understand that justification is a *legal* term.

It's an act of *justice*—a legal acquittal from guilt by God, the Judge, and the pronouncement that the believing sinner is now righteous in His sight. Yet, there has to be a basis for God declaring us righteous—or He Himself wouldn't be a righteous Judge.

In other words, someone had to pay for our sins, and of course that Person was Jesus—He paid the penalty for our sins and when we put our faith in Him, God transferred from Jesus' account to ours the perfect righteousness of Christ—

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

But here's something else you may not realize—God not only *declares* us righteous by justification through faith—He actually makes us righteous.

2. Justification involves a new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Many people believe that in justification God only *declares* them righteous. They believe that God just sort of says, *“Well, I'll call you righteous, I'll kind of pretend you're righteous even though you're really not.”*

Yes, God does *declare* us righteous—but there's also a reality that goes along with it. We're not just *declared* righteous—we're made righteous! (Listen for Harry Ironside story) So, when it comes to justification it doesn't just involve '**Imputation**' which is a declaration of righteousness—but you also have '**Impartation**' which is the granting of real righteousness!

As one pastor said—

“God isn’t simply playing some kind of fanciful, fictional word game with us—saying something to be true about us that really isn’t true. God doesn’t pretend with us; He doesn’t play act with us—if God says that you’re righteous—you are righteous!”

You see, there is a genuine *transformation* that takes place the instant you put your faith in Jesus Christ which coincides with Him making you a new creation—

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The verb **‘become’** in the Greek means *“to come into existence.”* So, Paul is saying that we actually are made righteous—actually not just *theoretically*! In salvation, God actually causes us to become righteous—in the sense that we are literally changed—we become a brand-new creation in Christ!

Romans 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

When Adam sinned, the whole human race became sinners—it wasn’t that we were just *declared* sinners—we became *actual* sinners! **That isn’t just some theoretical statement about us—it’s a fact!**

When God calls us sinners it’s because we are in fact sinners!

So, if Adam’s sin could make us all sinners, then by the same token the sacrifice of Christ and you’re believing in Him—can make you righteous! Paul refers to it as *‘the gift of righteousness’* (not just words but something substantive, real).

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.

The Greek word translated **‘made’** is *kathístēmi* which means ‘to literally make something a reality.’

It’s not just a declaration, it is not just God saying, *“You’re just as rotten and wretched as you’ve ever been but I’m just going to pretend you’re righteous.”* No, the reason God can declare us righteous is because we really are made righteous or else God is saying something about us that isn’t true—and it’s impossible for God to lie. (Heb. 6:18)

You see, justification involves **‘regeneration’**—and that’s a very important point. We were once the enemies of God but now we are the sons of God (the women too!).

We have been born-again into the family of God—*“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:26)

The family of Adam carries a blood curse and all who are of the family of Adam will perish—and the only hope is to change families! You were born into the family of Adam—you need to be born again into a new family, the family of God.

Another term that applies here with regard to justification is **‘identification’**—

Galatians 3:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [1 Corinthians 12:13]

At the point of salvation, we become one with Jesus—

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

We become one with the Lord Jesus—we put on Christ. That is why you will never come into judgment because for you to be judged, Jesus would have to be judged—and that’s impossible! Jesus can’t be judged (He’s perfect)—and you are one with Him!

John 10:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”

- “Yes, but I can sin and slip through His fingers and be lost!” You can’t slip through His fingers because—you are one of His fingers!

You are part of His Body—the Body of Christ!
You’re not separate from Him—you are one with Him.

Romans 3:27–30 (NKJV)

²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. ²⁹ Or is *He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since *there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

- What are the implications of justification—or being made righteous?

Well, it doesn’t mean that you’re perfect (practically), or that you never sin—otherwise all talk about sanctification and growing in Christ and the whole rest of the New Testament would be meaningless. I mean, if we’re all perfect, from a practical standpoint as believers—there’s no need for God to tell us how to live (the bulk of the New Testament)—we’d already be doing it!

So, being righteous in God’s eyes as believers here on earth doesn’t mean we’re sinless or perfect—it means that God has recreated you into an eternally righteous, transformed person fit for eternity—who is joined to a rotting corpse!

Which means, that for the rest of your time on earth living in these bodies of death—you’re going to constantly wrestle with your flesh (fallen nature) and that has the potential (if we let it) to restrict and hinder all that you can be now—but not what you’ll be someday—

Galatians 5:17, 25 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish...²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

As someone has said, *“You’re like a caterpillar being transformed and yet restricted by the cocoon which traps you called your ‘flesh’, but someday you will burst out fully transformed and you’ll spread your wings and fly!”*

Matthew 17:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

‘**Transfigured**’ comes from the Greek word we get our English word ‘*metamorphosis*’ from.

1 Corinthians 15:50–54 (NKJV)

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.”*

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).
Reach out to us [here](#).