*A Brief Commentray*

 *on*

 *Justification*

 *by*

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 **Justification**

 Before we can begin to understand justification, we must be aware that we are depraved lost sinners, (dead in sin) unable to do anything for ourselves. Job, whom God called a **perfect and upright man** still recognized his sinful condition. (This word, **“perfect”** [Hebrew: **“Tam”**] does not mean sinless, but rather, complete, or righteous.)

*Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth,* ***a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?***

*Job 9:20* ***If I justify myself,*** *mine own mouth shall condemn me:*

***if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse*.**

*Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth,* ***there is none that seeketh after God****. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Due to the fact that we are in such a deplorable condition we are completely helpless within ourselves. If we ask for justice we can only receive what we are justly due, which is **eternal damnation.** Our only recourse is to throw ourselves on the mercy of God and plead for His grace and mercy.

Justification is a **Legal, Judicial process** by which one who is found **guilty and condemned**, is then cleared of that guilt, and presented righteous before the bar of Justice.

*Romans 4:5-8 But to him that worketh not,* ***but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly****, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.* ***Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin*.**

God's justification for lost sinners was planned in **eternity** and carried out in **time.** **God was not surprised by sin**. But in eternity past He made plans for the delivery of His elect.

One of the foremost scriptural commentators of the past century, A.W. Pink said: "all that happens in time is but the accomplishment of what was ordained in eternity".

Adam, the first man, and Federal head of all mankind, fell in sin in the garden, Genesis chapt. 3. As a result man **sins** because **he is a sinner**, born **a sinner**, born **guilty.**

*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 that all have sinned****.*

We inherited Adam's sin, and we ourselves continue to sin. This sin multiplies as it is passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, we see sin **more prevalent** in the world today than ever before.

God, in His Holiness cannot tolerate sin in any form. Therefore sin **separates man from Holy God**, and makes us guilty before Him.

*Rom 3:23:* ***For all have sinned,*** *and come short of the glory of God;*

*Rom 3:19-20 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and* ***all the world may become guilty before God****.*

*Therefore* ***by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight****: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

God's law has been violated, and we are guilty. God is Just and because of **His Holiness, God cannot, will not condone sin**. The sinner **Must** be judged, the death sentence **Must** be carried out.

*Micah 6:6-7 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?* *Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

The prophet Micah realized the futility of sinful man attempting to stand before God. Yet how often we find men who believe that by their good works they can attain heaven.

**Justification** cannot be separated from **regeneration**, and **sanctification**. A part of sanctification is the work of the Holy spirit, in setting us aside for salvation, as we see in the following verse.

*1 Peter1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,* ***through sanctification of the Spirit****, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

**Regeneration** is His work in changing us, causing us to die to self, and become alive unto Christ, making us a new creature fit for God's family, of which we are made a part once we are saved.

*Titus 3:5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,* ***by the washing of regeneration****, and* ***renewing of the Holy Ghost****; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;* ***That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

**Justification** is what Christ did for us in satisfying the Law of God to bring this about. We stood guilty and condemned before the law, and that guilt and condemnation must be satisfied.

Justification then points to my stand or position before God. **Christ took my sin and guilt and paid the penalty of death for me.**

*1 Peter 2:24:* ***Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree****, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

Since we have violated God's law, we are subject to the penalty of that law, and God's law is Holy.

*Romans 7:12: Wherefore* ***the law is holy****, and the commandment holy, and just, and good*

Therefore the penalty **must** be met. Men like to measure themselves by other men, but God measures us by His Holiness, His Holy law. And that law condemns all men. Therefore no man can be justified by that law. **Only Christ’s sacrifice can pay the penalty in order for a person to be justified.**

*Galatians 3:10,11 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

Justified by faith!!! That means Faith in Christ, that He paid the penalty for us and set us free from the law. God in His mercy, and His great love, made a plan, in eternity past, whereby His law could be satisfied, and lost sinners justified, given new life in Christ, and made part of the family of God. A plan whereby God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, would have our sins charged to Him, and suffer and die for them, on the Cross of Calvary, to redeem us to Himself by His shed blood and make us presentable before His Father in Heaven, by imputing His righteousness to us.

God's plan of substitution is perfect and unique, for since man had sinned, man must die for that sin, and sinful man could only die and be punished for his own sin, and never be freed. No other man could die for him for "all have sinned" An animal could not die for man, for it is a creature of a lower order. A sinless angel could not die for man, for they are creatures of a higher order. So it must be man. So our Lord Jesus Christ left his heavenly home and took the form of a baby, born of a virgin, born under the law; lived under the law, without sin. He was completely in every way man, yet still deity. Being without sin he took our sin upon Himself, and suffered the wrath of the Father, dying upon the cross, **satisfying God's holy law**, and thereby justifying His elect. Then rising from the grave, and ascending to His Heavenly home to sit at the right hand of the Father, **to make intercession for us.** (who believe and trust in Him) Thus, we His elect, stand justified and righteous before God. because His righteousness has been imputed to us through faith in Him and His finished work.

*Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are ye saved through* ***faith****;* and ***that not of yourselves****: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Notice in the above verse that our very faith is a gift of God. God in His wisdom knew how very weak our faith is, so He even strengthens our faith, as we see in the following verse where a father seeks healing for his demon possessed child.

*Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe;* ***help thou mine unbelief.***

In conclusion: we see that there is no hope of sinful man to justify himself before God. Our assurance is in the finished work of Christ who died on that cruel cross to pay the penalty for our sin, and then imputed His righteousness to us, making us presentable before our Holy God.

*Romans 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also* ***justified****: and* ***whom he justified, them he also glorified.***

Many try to reach God

 To justify their way

But the only way to find Him,

 Is get on your knees and pray.

We can't demand from God,

 We don't deserve His grace,

We deserve to die and suffer

 As sinners, we've lost our place.

We must recognize ourselves as sin,

 So vile and worthless, we

And humbly ask forgiveness,

 That is our only plea.

When God hears a sinners cry,

 A call for mercy in despair,

He reaches down and lifts him up,

 By His grace he answers prayer.