

Man's Need for God's Justification - Romans 3

November 30, 2017

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
legal	literal
external	internal
Once and for all	Progressive and ongoing
Received by faith alone	Requires our surrender to the Holy Spirit

MAN'S DEPRAVITY IS THE REASON GOD'S JUSTIFICATION IS NEEDED.

Depravity Defined

Romans 3:9-12 ESV

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

"...by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil." Proverbs 16:6 ESV

Depravity Expressed

Romans 3:13-18 ESV

13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."

14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

The Inception of Man's Depravity

Genesis 2:15-17 ESV

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:22-24 ESV

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--"

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Romans 5:12 ESV

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned--

Romans 5:19 ESV

19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners...

Psalms 51:5 ESV

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Romans 7:18-20 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Man's depravity is the reason God's justification is needed.

- *Man is utterly helpless to stop his sin, to cleanse his heart or his actions, or to be in right relationship with a holy God.*
- *Unregenerate man has unbridled depravity; there are no limits to the evil he is capable of committing.*
- *Man, without God's intervention, is damned to the eternal torment of eternal judgment and death (separation from God).*

The Purpose of the Law

Romans 3:19-20 ESV

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:7-8 ESV

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

Justification by Faith in Jesus Christ

Justification had to come:

- *Separate from the Law*
- *Separate from man's efforts*

Romans 3:21-28 ESV

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--

22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are JUSTIFIED by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Justified (dikaiōō - to render, declare, pronounce one to be righteous, to render innocent, to declare guiltless, acquitted)

25 whom God put forward as a PROPITIATION by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had PASSED OVER former sins.

Propitiation (hilastērion - a means of appeasing or expiating, to extinguish the guilt, to appease by sacrifice, to pacify, to subside, bring to a state of peace and quiet)

Passed over (paresis - letting pass, disregarding, neglecting, not punished)

26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Two Vital Components of Justification

- **Forgiveness of Sins**
- **Spared from Judgment**

Forgiveness of Sins "...He had passed over former sins."

1 Peter 2:24 ESV

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Psalms 103:12 ESV

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Isaiah 1:18 ESV

18 Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Spared from Judgment "...a propitiation by His blood..."

Isaiah 53:4-11 ESV

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 pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds 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.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Justification versus Sanctification

- **As God's process of SANCTIFICATION ("chastening" - Hebrews 12) probes deeper exposing sin, JUSTIFICATION keeps our relationship with God intact.**
- **If we experienced SANCTIFICATION without JUSTIFICATION, we could easily:**
 - **Lose the joy of our salvation**
 - **Become discouraged, give up hope and quit pursuing God**
- **We must maintain a healthy balance between our JUSTIFICATION and SANCTIFICATION.**

"I groan daily under a body of sin and corruption. Oh for the time when I shall drop this flesh, and be free from sin!"

--Charles Spurgeon

"I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him."

--Charles Spurgeon

"Everyday you must acknowledge your sin. Then, you take your sin and give it to Christ on the cross. Then, you take Christ's righteousness and take it to the Father. You must do this every day."

--Jerry Bridges