

Righteousness Through Faith

Romans 3:21-31

“Justification,’ writes Stott, ‘is not a synonym for amnesty, which strictly is pardon without principle, a forgiveness which overlooks—even forgets...wrongdoing and declines to bring it to justice. No, justification is an act of justice, or gracious justice....When God Justifies sinners, he is not declaring bad people to be good, or saying that they are not sinners at all; he is pronouncing them legally righteous, free from any liability to the broken law, because he himself in his Son has born the penalty of their law-breaking....In other words, we are ‘justified by his blood.’” Boice

- I. God’s solution to man’s sin problem is to offer his **righteousness** in place of our sin. He offers it to anyone who will receive it by faith. It is impossible for anyone to be welcomed by God with open arms apart from receiving his **free gift** of righteousness through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Rom. 3:21

dikaio syne = in a broad sense; state of him who is as he ought to be. The doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God. Integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling and acting.

- II. **Faith** is the door that opens our hearts to receive God’s righteousness. It too is given to us by God as he draws us through opening our minds to our need for salvation (**knowledge**), stirring our hearts to receive his gift of salvation (**conviction**), and moving us to enter into a lifechanging trust relationship with him (**discipleship**). Without faith it is impossible to please God (**Heb. 11:6**).

Rom. 3:22-23

James 2:19

“It now remains to pour into the heart itself what the mind has absorbed. For the Word of God is not received by faith if it flits about in the top of the brain, but when it takes root in the depth of the heart that it may be an invincible defense to withstand and drive off all the stratagems of temptation.” Calvin

- III. The means God uses to give lost sinners his righteousness is the blood of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus paid a price for our souls by his willful sacrifice on the cross, and the purchasing power he uses to redeem us from the clutches of hell is his blood. His shed blood was absolutely necessary for our sins to be forgiven, there is no other way. *"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"* (Heb. 9:22).

Rom. 3:24

Matt. 20:28

1 Cor. 6:19-20

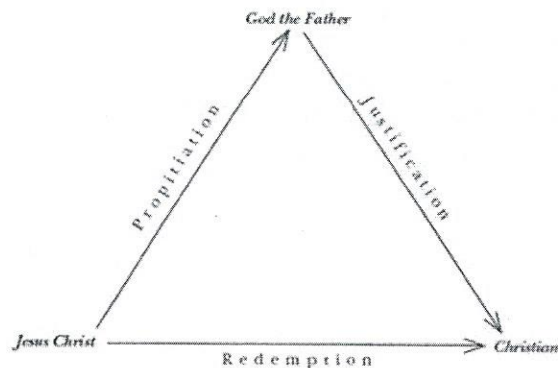
1 Peter 1:18-19 *For you know that it is not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish.*

- IV. Upon the **permanence** of redemption, two very important **unalterable** events took place that have **forever changed** our standing before God. God's wrath against our sin was satisfied (**propitiation**) because Jesus bore the penalty for it on the cross, and we were declared righteous (**justification**) in his sight.

Rom. 3:25-31

Rom. 1:18

2 Cor. 5:21



dikaioo = to render righteous, to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be.

"Justification comes from the world of the law courts and describes the act of a judge in acquitting an accused person." Boice