

Knowing the Son > Our Justifier

➤ Introduction

- Paul and Peter despite all their failings in their past (Paul – caused the Christians to blaspheme and put his vote against them, was keeping the coats of those who stoned Stephen, Peter denied the Lord three times)
 - These men had a sense of confidence before the Lord to stand and rebuke churches for their sin and confront the sin of hypocrisy such as in the case of Annais and Sapphira); they were men who were established in the right standing they had before God; and that God had completely wiped away their past as if it had never happened
 - Some brother/sister may be in our midst and filled with guilt and condemnation because they have had many failures in their past and can't seem to see that they can ever have a ministry or bold standing before the Lord
 - The truth is that even though in the flesh we may have had a terrible past but because of what Christ has done we are brand new and we can come before Him as new creature and we as brothers and sisters in the church need to look at each other that we are new creations (2 Cor 5:16,17)
 - In 1 Cor 6:11, it shares even though some of the believers have had terrible sins in their past (previous verses), they were now justified

➤ Propitiation

- God's righteous wrath was satisfied by Jesus Death on the cross (1 John 4:10)
- Sins as crimson will become as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18)
- Propitiation was through the death of Jesus on the cross (Rom. 4:25)
- Debt has been paid [10,000 talents = 150,000 years of wages - \$10 Million] (Mat 18:24-27)
 - He paid a debt that He did not owe to free me of a debt that I could never pay
 - If we think we can get to be righteousness with God outside of Christ we don't realize the extent of that debt we have before the Lord, the man in the parable who said he could pay the debt, was lying, or deceived or didn't realize the extent of what God had forgiven him of
- Propitiation differs from forgiveness of the Old Testament as Christ not only forgives us and sakes our sins He will remember no more, He also is our advocate. The blood of bulls and goats on the contrary gave the constant reminder of sins and was never an advocate for the sinner as Christ was and is.

➤ Justification (Rom 4:3, 9, 22; Rom. 4:23-25; Rom. 4:21; Isaiah 50:8)

- Righteousness accounted (from a zero balance to be accounted the righteousness of Christ)
- Justification was through the resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 4:25)
- Just as if I'd never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - The only reason that one who has committed grave sins of murder, fornication, adultery can find any peace and hope that they can stand as if they had never committed those sins equally righteous as one who hadn't fallen into those sins and stand before a Holy God
 - Some would argue that this is not possible but that is the truth the through repentance, forgiveness and justification one can stand clothed in the righteousness of Christ – holy and accepted before the Lord but we must believe that He is faithful who has promised

➤ Types of justification

- Faith (Rom. 4:21-26) – We have the same faith as Abraham did, he believed that God could give them a son that even he died would be raised again (Hebrews 11:19), we too when we believe that Jesus who was not born of natural means but through a virgin birth and also that He died and rose again even though we don't see it. We in like manner have righteousness accounted to us by faith (Romans 4:25). Amazing truth that can give us great boldness that we are coming before clothed in Christ's righteousness not with timidity, guilt or being ashamed in His presence.
- Works (James 2:23, 24; 21, 25) – we need to ensure our justification has evidence in the works in our lives
- Word (Matt 12:36, 37) – we need to be careful of the words as they can justify or condemn us in the last day

- Just shall **LIVE** by faith (Rom. 1:17, Rom. 4:21-24)
 - Praying asking the Lord forgive my sins and to clothe me in righteousness; reminds me that I'm clothed in His righteousness and submitting to His righteous rather than my own. (Romans 10:3)
 - We also like it says in Hebrews 4:9 have a rest, a rest that we have ceased from our works and rest in His works; rest from our striving to gain righteousness before Him but rest/submit to His righteousness
 - What is the evidence of me being justified – it is faith that He who is promised is able
 - Just like Abraham gave glory believing that God could give him a son and resurrect Him
 - Likewise we believe in the same way that Jesus was born of a virgin and was resurrected to receive Justification (Romans 4:25)

- Access to the God (Rom. 5:1)
 - Unapproachable Light (1 Tim 6:16) – We can only stand in His presence ever we are also clothed in the same light/glory/righteousness that Christ has purchased for us
 - Fish can't survive outside of water, similarly an astronaut needs to be clothed in a suit to be safe in space. And we need to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ to be able to stand in His presence (1 Cor. 15:53)

- Pictures of Justification (Helplessly hopeless)
 - Adam and Eve clothed with animal skins (Gen. 3:21)
 - Joshua – high priest (Zec. 3:4)
 - Prodigal son (Luke 15:22)
 - Wedding garment (Matt 22:12)

- People who were justified
 - Publican who repented (Luke 18:14); we too if are broken and see only our sin and not looking at others with contempt can go from the Lord's presence justified

- People who not justified
 - Those that justify themselves (Luke 16:15)
 - Pharisee who trusted in themselves and view others with contempt (Luke 18:9)