

V. Concerning Justification

- ❖ We believe that the great gospel blessing, which Christ secures to such as believe in him, is justification. That justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness, that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.
- ❖ *Justification*: the **act of declaring** or accounting a person just or righteous.
- ❖ When a man is 'saved,' does he immediately go to heaven? Does he immediately die physically, then live spiritually? Of course not! When a person is accused of a crime, what is it that sets him free? It is an acquittal, or a formal announcement by a jury **DECLARING TO MANKIND**, that person's innocence. The doctrine of spiritual justification, then, is declaring a lost man righteous, securing all the blessings of the believer including, grace, help, guidance, and, of course, a future home in glory! Observe J. M. Pendleton...

'...There was a custom among the ancients, as Ovid and others inform us, of this kind: When a person was charged with crime, he was arranged before judges, who, after considering all the testimony in the case, proceeded to pronounce judgment by depositing small stones in an urn. If, in their opinion, the accused was guilty, they put black stones in the urn; but if they regarded him innocent, they deposited white stones. Thus the black stones were symbols of condemnation, and the white ones symbols of justification and innocence. Now, it is plain that the ceremony of putting white pebbles into an urn did make the accused individual either just or innocent, but it **FORMALLY DELCARED** him just and innocent.'
Christian Doctrines, page 275

The Need of Justification:

1. Romans 3:19-20- As we have already discussed, Man is under condemnation from the law of God. The law shows us our sinful nature and Christ's perfect nature. Perfection is defined by the moral, ceremonial, ritualistic, Law of Moses. So, the question to be asked is this: 'How are we justified in the eyes of God almighty?'
2. Romans 8:33-34- We note here, again, that mankind stands guilty before God. Yet, Paul writes that Christ makes intercession for his elect. So, again, how is man justified before God?

Justification Made Simple:

Acts 13:39, Romans 8:1, Isa 53:11-12- The acquittal made by Jesus Christ. At the point of salvation, (your time & place), you become justified before God. We often describe the spiritual feelings associated with salvation as 'the world rolling off our shoulders', or 'a sweet peace that came in.' When a person stands accused in a court of law and the verdict is read 'Innocent,' is he not left feeling much the same?

Romans 5:1 & 6-9; Romans 3:24, 5:9, & 10:4; II Cor 5:21; Phil 3:9. Obviously, the theme we may notice is that we are justified through the act of atonement through Jesus Christ. Faith is the point we become apart of that justification. Thus, as we stand before God, we may simply claim the blood of Jesus Christ! I Pet 1:18-19

At the point of salvation, we spiritually inherit the nature of Jesus Christ! Thus, the contrast is made between the innocent & guilty, lost & saved, darkness & light, & of course, condemned & justified: John 3:18, Romans 10:10, Eph 2:8.

All promises and blessings hinge on the justification of the sinner! Without it, righteousness is not imputed to us & there is no hope of holiness without Christ Jesus. Thus, we note that justification appears as the old man dies & disappears. We note the blessings to follow for the Saints of God: I Tim 4:8; Matt 6:33; I Cor 1:30-31; Rev 14:13