

ROMANS: PART 12 EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

God's Righteous Justification (Righteousing) of All Who Believe "Justification Through Faith Alone" Romans 3:21-22

The Context.

1. Gospel of Justification Defined. Rom 3:21-26.
 - The *means* of justification -- faith alone. Vs 21-22.
 - The *source* of justification -- grace alone. Vs 22-24.
 - The *ground* of justification -- Christ alone. Vs 24b-26.
2. Gospel of Justification Defended. Rom 3:27-31.
3. Gospel of Justification Demonstrated. Rom 4:1-25.
4. "Justification" is a judicial act of God (by grace) whereby He makes a double transfer:
 - a) My sin transferred to Christ -- where the Law's penalty is satisfied in His death,
 - b) His righteousness transferred to me -- where the Law's demands are met in His holy life.

Faith Alone means I abandon all works as contributory to my justification

1. We cannot contribute anything to our justification:
 - Our works will not help us: Rom 3:21a,28; 4:4,5a,13a,14,15. Cf. Isa 64:6.
 - In contrast we must trust in Christ's work: Rom 3:22,28; 4:5b,13b,16.
2. We cannot contribute faith to our justification:
 - Faith is not the substitution of one kind of merit (faith) for another kind of merit (works).
 - Faith is not us making a contribution (faith) and Christ making a contribution (the Cross).
 - The Bible is very careful to say that we are not saved *for* believing but *by* believing in Christ.
 - "Through (dia) faith (in the dative case)" = faith is the instrument which receives Christ.
 - "Through faith (in the genitive case)" = on account of faith. Never! Faith is not my Savior.
 - "Righteousness by faith (pistei)" = faith the instrument that receives Christ.
 - "Righteousness out of (ek) faith" = faith the instrument that receives Christ.
 - "Faith instead of (anti) righteousness" = faith in the place of works? Never!
 - God categorically denies that we are justified on account of *anything* we do (including our believing) -- we are justified by Christ!!! Cf. Mk 3:1-6; Rom 10:10.

Faith Alone means I entrust myself completely to Christ for my Justification

1. The One we trust in is Christ:
 - He is my righteousness. Jer 23:6; Rom 3:22; 5:10
 - He is my substitute. II Cor 5:21; I Pet 3:18; Rom 5:9.
2. The way we trust is:
 - Notitia (knowing) the Gospel. Rom 10:17 Cf. James 2:19.
 - Assentia (agreeing) with the Gospel. Acts 2:37; 8:36; 16:30.
 - Fiducia (entrusting of self) to Christ in the Gospel. John 3-10 "come, take, eat, join, follow"

Faith Alone in Christ results in a perfect Justification.

1. Those who believe in Christ -- God justifies. Hab 2:4; Rom 1;17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:36.
2. Those who believe in Christ pass from condemnation to justification. Jn 3:18,36; 5:24; Rom 5:9,11,17.

Application: Do I have faith alone in Christ?

1. You do if you are convicted of your own sin & condemnation. Ps 71:16; Prov 28:13.
2. You do if you wholeheartedly assent to the truth of God's Gospel.
3. You do if you earnestly take hold of Christ & His righteousness for pardon.
4. You do if you begin to live out the life of Christ -- having been joined to Him.