

Justified by His Grace; Romans 3:21-26

I. Justified

- A. To pronounce a verdict that someone is in full accordance with the requirements of the law (of God)
- B. God judges and declares people who have put their faith in (*the faith of*) Jesus to be righteous and acceptable to Him and accordingly, fit to receive the pardon of their sins and eternal life - Thayer's Greek English Lexicon
- C. The faith ***of*** Jesus verses faith ***in*** Jesus
 1. A quick Greek lesson
 2. "The genitive is the case that qualifies or restricts a noun by means of a specific characterization.
 - a) The genitive normally marks a noun as the source or possessor of something, or refers to the kind of relationship that noun has to another noun.
 - b) It is typically expressed in English by the preposition "of". For example, in the phrase "throne of the king" the noun "king" is in the genitive and qualifies the type of throne. In "blood of Christ," Christ is the genitive noun which describes possession." Glossary of Morpho-syntactic Database Terminology
 3. A sinner's faith has no ability to justify, or to put us in full accordance with the requirements to of the law
 4. It is only the blood of Jesus that justifies, and that was given because of His faith, not mine!
- D. Galatians 2:16; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through (***by the***) faith in (***of***) Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by (***the***) faith (***of***) Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
- E. Philippians 3:9; and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through (***the***) faith in (***of***) Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
- F. Galatians 2:20; I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by (***the***) faith in (***of***) the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- G. It may seem like a small distinction, but it is an important one
- H. We must understand that our faith is not what saves or justifies us
 1. Would our faith stand up to the opportunity to call 12 legions (a unit of the Roman army consisting of 3000-6000 soldiers) of angels to rescue us?
 2. Would our faith stand up to a flogging like that of Jesus'?
 3. Would our faith stand up to Jesus' statement on the cross, "forgive them, they do not know what they are doing"?
- I. Justification is how we are made whole again, it is how we are declared "not guilty" by God
- J. And it is through Jesus' faith that we are justified

II. Grace

- A. "Grace is the dimension of divine activity that enables God to confront human indifference and rebellion with an inexhaustible capacity to forgive and to bless. God is gracious in action" Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible
- B. It is translated as; gift, favor, thanks, thankfulness, grateful, benefit, credit, gracious, and the majority of the time grace
- C. But we want to stick to the idea of saving grace, justification by God's grace

- D. Titus 2:11; For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
 - 1. Jesus appeared bringing salvation to all people
 - 2. Jesus is God's "divine activity that enables God to confront human indifference and rebellion"
 - 3. Jesus is God's "inexhaustible capacity to forgive and to bless"
 - 4. Jesus is God's "unmerited favor" bestowed upon us because we are separated from Him
 - 5. We are justified by grace (Jesus)!
- E. We tend to generalize, stereotype, and keep a very narrow (even microscopic) definition of grace
- F. Grace is so much more than just "unmerited favor"
- G. There are other aspects of grace we need to address
- H. Titus 2:11–12; 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,
- I. Grace trains us
 - 1. To renounce ungodliness and worldly passions
 - 2. To live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives
 - 3. 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - 4. 1 Timothy 4:6–7; 6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;
 - 5. Grace doesn't accept ungodliness or worldly passions
 - 6. Grace does give people who are caught up in those behaviors a way out! (Just like it [HE] did you and me)
- J. We must draw near to Grace
 - 1. Hebrews 4:14–16; 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - 2. Luke 1:29–33; 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
 - 3. Ephesians 2:4–8; 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

4. Luke 11:9–10; 9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
 - K. This is just a small sample of the ideas behind grace
 - L. Too often we are guilty of separating things that God has grouped together
 1. The idea of faith being just a belief and having no action (faith and works)
 2. The varied idea of grace being just unmerited favor
 3. 1 Peter 4:9–11; 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - M. Grace is the overarching umbrella, the fountain of Jesus' blood where our salvation begins
- III. Justified by His Grace
- A. Jesus' faith is the grace that saves us
 - B. We must draw near to that saving grace
 - C. We must let grace train us in righteousness