

WORD FOR THE DAY: Justification

April 2

“It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 4:25-5:1

God is the only completely wise, righteous, and just judge. When we begin to realize the depths of that truth, it is honestly terrifying. If God is completely just, then I, being completely sinful, must be punished. He cannot simply ignore or look past my sinfulness. He cannot compromise his own justice, holiness and righteousness. His wrath can't simply be forgotten, it must be satisfied. What is the only answer to this problem? Jesus standing in my place.

On the cross of Calvary, Jesus stands in the place of the believer and takes our deserved punishment upon Himself. As He does this, a beautiful divine exchange takes place. R.C. Sproul describes this so well in his book Before the Face of God:

The Bible tells us that God never clears the guilty (Exodus 34:7). He never pronounces guilty people innocent. The atonement pays the penalty for people who are judged guilty. The sinner is not exonerated. Only after the sentence has been passed is there redemption – at the point of serving the sentence. Guilt is declared, and then the guilt and its penalty are placed on or imputed to Christ. Not only does Christ offer the sacrifice to pay the required ransom, but in God's sight his righteousness is given to me. As a result, after the transfer takes place, God looks at me and declares me justified. This is not because I have been cleared of my sin, but because I have been redeemed from my sin.

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God for this amazing truth! Once we see and believe by faith that Jesus perfectly and completely satisfied all of God's requirements for us, then the realization of a completely just and righteous God no longer terrifies us, but rather brings us peace.

REFLECTION

- Do you know peace with God through Jesus Christ? If not, accept the gift of salvation through faith today.
- How does the realization of being justified by God deepen your understanding of the gospel?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God, thank you that “Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free; for God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.” Hallelujah!