

Luke 10:20

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but **rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.** — Jesus Christ

## HOW I KNOW I AM BORN AGAIN

Part Two / Wednesday, November 30, 2016

### JUSTIFICATION

1 Last time we studied CONVERSION, which requires honest repentance and a turn-  
2 around in attitude and lifestyle. It takes more than just repeating something by a  
3 preacher, more than signing a church membership card. Romans 10:8-16 (Living Bible)  
4 *For salvation that comes from trusting Christ--which is what we preach--is already*  
5 *within easy reach of each of us; in fact, it is as near as our own hearts and mouths. [9]*  
6 *For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord and believe in*  
7 *your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is*  
8 *by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth he*  
9 *tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation. [11] For the Scriptures tell us that*  
10 *no one who believes in Christ will ever be disappointed. [12] Jew and Gentile are the*  
11 *same in this respect: they all have the same Lord who generously gives his riches to all*  
12 *those who ask him for them. [13] Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be*  
13 *saved.*

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What is conversion? It is a sincere changing of the mind and disposition in regard to sin, involving a sense of PERSONAL guilt and helplessness, apprehension of God's mercy and a strong desire to escape - or be saved from sin - AND THE VOLUNTARY ABANDONMENT OF THAT SIN.

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17 Now...an amazing thing happens to you and me, undertaken by God Himself, when we  
18 are truly converted. Once again, the teaching by the Apostle Paul (Living Bible):  
19 Romans 5:12-19 *When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin*  
20 *spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all*  
21 *sinned. [13] [We know that it was Adam's sin that caused this] because although, of*  
22 *course, people were sinning from the time of Adam until Moses, God did not in those*  
23 *days judge them guilty of death for breaking his laws--because he had not yet given his*  
24 *laws to them nor told them what he wanted them to do. [14] So when their bodies died it*

1 *was not for their own sins since they themselves had never disobeyed God's special law*  
2 *against eating the forbidden fruit, as Adam had. What a contrast between Adam and*  
3 *Christ who was yet to come! [15] And what a difference between man's sin and God's*  
4 *forgiveness! For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin. But this*  
5 *one man, Jesus Christ, brought forgiveness to many through God's mercy. [16] Adam's*  
6 *one sin brought the penalty of death to many, while Christ freely takes away many sins*  
7 *and gives glorious life instead. [17] The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to be*  
8 *king over all, but all who will take God's gift of forgiveness and acquittal are kings of*  
9 *life because of this one man, Jesus Christ. [18] Yes, Adam's sin brought punishment to*  
10 *all, but Christ's righteousness makes men right with God, so that they can live. [19]*  
11 *Adam caused many to be sinners because he disobeyed God, and Christ caused many to*  
12 *be made acceptable to God because he obeyed.*

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Verses 18 and 19 in the King James Version state the case perfectly: Romans 5:18-19  
*Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation;*  
*even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification*  
*of life. [19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the*  
*obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

Conversion is followed by JUSTIFICATION!

Definition: Justification is the reversal of God's attitude toward the sinner because of  
the sinner's new relationship with Jesus Christ. It is JUST AS IF I'D never sinned in  
the first place.

I. Before conversion and justification, man is thought of by God as a transgressor and  
an eternal criminal.

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Romans 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for*  
*the ungodly.*

Col. 1:21 *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by*  
*wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled:*

Titus 3:3 *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived,*  
*serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one*  
*another.*

A. And the penalty given by God for this is DEATH. James 1:15 *Then when lust*  
*hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

1 Here is the historical follow-up to the James 1:15 admonition: Genesis 2:16-17 *And*  
2 *the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest*  
3 *freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of*  
4 *it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

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6 And...Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life*  
7 *through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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9 B. Therefore, if you and I are to be saved, truly saved, this DEATH PENALTY has to  
10 be removed.

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12 This was accomplished by Christ's death on the cross. Isaiah 53:5 *But he was*  
13 *wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of*  
14 *our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

15 And 1 Peter 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we,*  
16 *being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

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18 Jesus bore my penalty of death on the cross: therefore God now remits my penalty if I  
19 believe on His Son. It is on this that forgiveness of sins is based.

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21 II. SECOND....SIN NOT ONLY CAUSES DEATH, BUT IT CAUSES THE SINNER  
22 TO LOSE GOD'S FAVOR.

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24 John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not*  
25 *the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

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27 The wrath of God! Now there's a new idea for many people who have no concept of the  
28 "fear of God." In fact, many today actually dare to defy Him. Yet the Bible makes  
29 clear the fact that one of God's emotions is anger: Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of*  
30 *God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who*  
31 *hold the truth in unrighteousness;* But God's gift of JUSTIFICATION erases that  
32 wrath! Praise God!

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34 A. Now remission of the penalty is one thing; but restoration to actual favor is quite  
35 another. A case in point would be the late President Richard M. Nixon. His succeeding  
36 president, Gerald Ford, issued a pardon for Nixon's offenses but he was probably never  
37 really reconciled to mainstream society. *JUSTIFICATION restores the favor as well as*  
38 *removing the penalty.* Galatians 3:26 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in*  
39 *Christ Jesus.*

1 III. JUSTIFICATION ALSO IMPUTES (“to attribute vicariously from one to another”)  
2 RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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4 The sinner must not only be pardoned for his or her past sins, but also supplied with a  
5 positive righteousness before we can have fellowship with God.  
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In the latter part of the New Testament we have the charming story of the Apostle Paul, a wealthy landowner in Turkey (Philemon, for whom the book is named), and his servant/slave Onesimus. Onesimus had escaped and ended up in Rome where Paul was a prisoner/evangelist and the runaway came under conviction of the Holy Spirit. He needed to return to Philemon, as distasteful as that was, and present himself back to work. But Paul wrote a letter to Philemon (the little book of Philemon is that letter) in which the apostle asked him to accept back his man just because of who Paul himself was. The request was accepted as Philemon IMPUTED THE GOODNESS OF PAUL TO HIS RUNAWAY. The acceptance was not because of Onesimus, but because of Paul. SO FAR AS GOD IS CONCERNED, IT IS NOT MY GOODNESS AT ALL - BUT RATHER CHRIST IN ME WHICH IS MY HOPE OF GLORY.

7 What is one of the benefits this Christ’s righteousness imputation to me - and you?  
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9 The righteousness of Christ will be the “wedding garment” worn by the Bride (the  
10 redeemed saints of God, the Church) at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Jesus told this  
11 story: Matthew 22:11-14 *And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there*  
12 *a man which had not on a wedding garment: [12] And he saith unto him, Friend, how*  
13 *camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. [13]*  
14 *Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and*  
15 *cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [14] For*  
16 *many are called, but few are chosen.*

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18 It will never be “my goodness” that accomplishes any result in eternity; as Paul said it is  
19 only Christ in me that can do anything of merit.

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21 HOW CAN I BE JUSTIFIED?  
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23 That is an age-old query. We know that the patriarch Job asked it in long ages past: Job  
24 25:4 *How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of*  
25 *a woman?*  
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27 I. JUSTIFICATION IS BY THE GRACE OF GOD

1 Remember from a former study that the grace of God is what we receive for something  
2 we have not done or do not deserve. While God's mercy is His pardon and covering for  
3 those things we have done.

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5 Justification is never by our good works or goodness - but only by the mercy of God. In  
6 order to receive and appreciate this we must:

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- 8 ▶ realize we don't have any righteousness in ourselves at all. This is one of the
- 9 reasons why the Pharisees hated Jesus. He punctured their "self-righteousness."
- 10 ▶ realize our total inability to ever pick ourselves up by ourselves for God's
- 11 approval; we must have help and only Jesus can do that.
- 12 ▶ realize that our righteousness was paid for on the Cross of Calvary and is a part of
- 13 God's gift of salvation.
- 14 ▶ realize that God was not under any moral obligation to do all of this for us, but He
- 15 "so loved the world" that He did it. I cannot do it. God can. And did!
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17 II. JUSTIFICATION IS BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. There is no other source!

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19 Romans 5:9 ***Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved***  
20 ***from wrath through him.***

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22 The grand old hymn contains this line in one of the verses:

23 *Could my tears forever flow; Could my zeal no languor know;*

24 *These for sin could not atone.*

25 *Thou must save and Thou alone.*

26 *In my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling.*

27  
28 That last underlined line is the crux of justification. Nothing I could ever do would  
29 justify my life in the eyes of God. It is my relationship to Christ that counts here. So  
30 the pressure is not on me, it was on Jesus! No wonder He "sweat drops of blood" in  
31 Gethsemane, just hours from the cross. He could feel the pressure of the ages upon  
32 Him!

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34 III. JUSTIFICATION IS BY FAITH

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36 Romans 5:1 ***Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our***  
37 ***Lord Jesus Christ:***

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39 Faith is the means by which we appropriate justification. I hope by now in these two  
40 studies you have realized that our own personal FEELINGS don't have very much to do

1 with any of this. It is all about what God has done through Christ. My part in the  
2 entire process is to cast all my faith upon Him and the Gospel. When Jesus cried out in  
3 the sheerest agony from the cross, "It is Finished!" He meant the means by which I could  
4 be accepted by God was accomplished! Hallelujah!

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6 THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION

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8 1. I am no longer under the death penalty for my sin.  
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10 2. The condemnation is gone. Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation*  
11 *to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*  
12 God could hardly make this more clear, more plain, more simple to understand and  
13 accept. Yet we all too often allow Satan's jibes or our own feelings to interfere with the  
14 completed work of Calvary. Can you appeal to my personal guilt? Why, no you  
15 cannot. Why? I don't have any guilt. "There is no condemnation....!"  
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17 3. I am now at peace with God. There is no enmity. Christ bridged the gap between  
18 God and me with the "bridge" called Calvary.  
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20 4. I am now a full heir of God. Titus 3:7 *That being justified by his grace, we*  
21 *should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*  
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23 5. Now, because of Justification, I can live an acceptable and righteous life before God.  
24 To anyone who denies that premise, read this marvelous passage written by "Pastor"  
25 John: 1 John 3:7 **Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth**  
26 **righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**  
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28 6. I am now assured that I will be saved from the coming wrath of God during the  
29 Tribulation. We now anticipate the "blessed hope" of Christ's return.

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32 Next week: REGENERATION  
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