

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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9/6/15 - Justification By Faith

Outline:

To the Confused Sinner:

False religion says God justifies the "godly" (those who do good works), and on the basis of that, a person is saved. That's a LIE!!!

To the Confused Sinner:

The Word of God says , *"But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the UNGODLY, his faith is credited as righteousness"* (Romans 4:5).

To the Confused Sinner:

Too many people, even some that falsely believe that they are saved, do not understand this CRITICALLY important distinction: a person is saved by faith, not by faithfulness.

To the Confused Sinner:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

To the Confused Sinner:

Too many people, even some that falsely believe that they are saved, do not understand this CRITICALLY important distinction: a person is saved by faith, not by faithfulness.

To the Confused Sinner:

Believing means you're accepting (receiving) something as true. In salvation, you believe that you receive the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. That's different than saying God justifies (saves) you because He accepts (receives) your

believing as a "good work". <-- that's wrong!

Formula's Put God On a Treadmill

The heart doesn't have to be involved in satisfying a formula. God sees the heart. Religion/legalism/the flesh love formulas!

Saving Faith Is a Grace Gift

Even your BELIEVING cannot include any works or merit whatsoever; otherwise, the Gospel has been perverted!

To the Confused Sinner:

Faith produces faithfulness. Faithfulness doesn't produce faith. Therefore, saving faith is NEVER a product of faithfulness (or "belief as works"); rather, it is a gift from God.

To the Confused Sinner:

Believing is receiving. God has no reason to justify you on the merits of the act itself. As soon as you think that believing has merit (is a good work), then you miss the grace.

The Good News

God is gracious and merciful. God is a loving God. For those who nonmeritoriously believe in God's salvation, He imparts saving faith.

Rom 4:2-3

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Abraham's Example

God imputes righteousness to those who believe, nonmeritoriously, in His promises. Abraham is a perfect example of someone "credited" with righteousness, both at salvation and through sanctification.

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And that is what is in the mind of the Apostle Paul as he writes in Romans 3 through 5. To present this great treatise on the fact that nobody is going to be saved by some ritual or some noble, moral effort, or religious activity...

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...salvation and heaven are available but not through any external action, only by grace through faith and that faith in the true and living God who has now revealed Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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There is therefore no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. And while Abraham did not know of Jesus Christ, he certainly wouldn't have known anything about His life or death or burial or resurrection, he did know that salvation comes by faith alone, and he believed that...

Pastor John MacArthur

...and he believed that God was a God of grace who would give salvation to a sinner who knew he couldn't save himself. So Abraham becomes the model of

justification by faith.

Being Made Righteous

To be justified means to be made righteous. Justification by faith is something that occurs when you believe. Righteousness is imputed to a believer at salvation this way; it is also imputed to a believer in time this same way.

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Divine Viewpoint (Omniscience)

To God, the plan of salvation (justification by faith) and the means (the Cross) have always been simultaneously observed by Him. Therefore, the difficulties we might have as humans are nothing to Him.

2Co 9:15 [Amplified]

Now thanks be to God for His Gift, [precious] beyond telling [His indescribable, inexpressible, free Gift]!

Humility

Humility means you are able to receive grace without restriction. It means you understand the term "free". It means you have no intention of "earning" grace or "repaying" God afterwards.

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