

How Does Christ Justify Us?

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Series Theme:

Seeing **how** Jesus is your salvation will stir your love for him.

Trust and follow God who alone in Christ gives life to the dead enabling you to stand before him and live.

ONE: God redeems by turning his wrath on Christ instead of us, showing himself both just and justifier of those trusting Christ to be their Redeemer, their Substitute, their Standing.

Romans 3.21-26

²¹ But now **the righteousness of God has been manifested** apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God **through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ **and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** ²⁵ **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.** This was **to show God's righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, **so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Redemption (God's buying us back from sin and death)

Propitiation (God's putting forth his Son as the sacrifice)

God's Showing Righteousness (maintaining justice yet justifying sinners)

TWO: God has always committed himself to be our Redeemer, for our fathers in faith needed gracious justification as much as we.

A. Abraham

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and **it was counted to him as righteousness.**"

God's reckoning/counting in Christ: 1Co 1.31; 2Co 5.21; Phi 3.9

B. David

⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

C. Baptism/Circumcision cannot justify: since God's law brings wrath only if the law is applied to a substitute can your transgression be removed.

¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

**THREE: Believe in God "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things that do not exist." (4.17b; cntrst Rom 1.18ff.)
Rom 4.16-25**

Abraham grew strong not by thinking: *You can do it!*

But rather by believing: *This is the God who can and does!*

4 ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

4.16a Literally: *Therefore by faith that according to grace the promise might be secure to all his seed*

²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. **It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,** ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.