

The Grand Scope of Redemption

Lesson 9: The Objective Application of Redemption (Part 1)

A Look at the Objective Application of Salvation through Justification

[Justification] begets, nourishes, builds, preserves, and defends the church of God; and without it the church of God cannot exist one hour... [It is] the chief article of Christian doctrine. To him who understands how great its usefulness and majesty are, everything else will seem slight and turn to nothing...

When the article of justification has fallen, everything has fallen.

Martin Luther

1. Dimensions of Salvation

| Concept | Context | Condition & Divine Remedy |
|--|----------------|---|
| • Redemption | Marketplace | Sin enslaves – Redemption purchases freedom & re-ownership |
| • Reconciliation | Relationships | Sin alienates – Reconciliation removes offense restoring breach |
| • Atonement (Propitiation/ Expiation) | Temple | Sin incurs wrath – Propitiation turns it away satisfying justice Sin defiles – Expiation cleanses sin & brings forgiveness |
| • Justification | Courtroom | Sin condemns – Justification declares one acquitted & righteous |
| • Regeneration | Life cycle | Sin is death – Regeneration brings new life initiating righteousness |
| • Adoption | Family | Sin orphans us – Adoption brings into God's household |
| • Union w/ Christ | Organics | Sin cuts off – Union w/ Christ joins together indissolubly |
| • Sanctification | Temple | Sin debilitates – Sanctification sets apart & makes one righteous |
| • Glorification | Heaven | Sin corrupts – Glorification completely removes unrighteousness |

2. The Terminology of Justification in the New Testament

Dikaiosyne (noun) - "Justice/ Righteousness" – 92x

Dikaioo (verb) - "Justify/ Declare as righteous" – 39x

Dikaioma (noun) - "Ordinance/ sentence of justification" – 10x

Dikaios (adjective) - "Just/ righteous" – 81x

Dikaios (adverb) - "Justly/ righteously" – 5x

3. Old Testament Legal Background

Righteousness in OT concerns not just ethical issues, but legal ones (i.e. Justice):

See Deut. 25:1 (cf. also Deut. 1:16-17; 17:2-13; 19:15-21; Psa. 51:4; 143:2; Prov. 17:15; Isa. 5:16, 22-23).

To condemn is to declare a person unrighteous (i.e. guilty). Condemnation is not what makes the person unrighteous – rather it is the verdict of guilt under the law. Likewise, to justify is to declare a person innocent of charges of unrighteousness. Justification does not make one righteous – rather it is the verdict of innocence (i.e. acquittal) under the law.

Note Justification and Salvation in OT:

See Psa. 32:1-2, 5 ('guilt' can be transl. 'penalty'); Isa. 53:11; 55:1, 6-7; Micah 7:18-19; Hab. 2:4.

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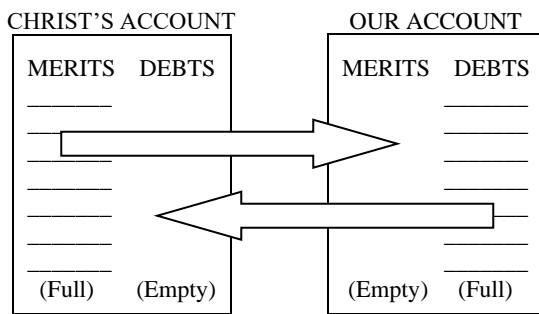
4. The New Testament Teaching on Justification

See Rom. 1:16-17; 3:19-26

- The Need for Justification – Sin fails to meet God’s standard and the law cannot free us (vss. 19-20, 23, 24; cf. Rom. 5:16-19; 8:1-4)

The law cannot save us – it can only condemn us. Since the demands of the law cannot be carried out by us, the sanctions of the law must be carried out against us.

- The Purpose of Justification – To be made acceptable before God (vss. 21-22; cf. Phil. 3:9)
- The Means of Justification – The exercise of faith (vss. 22, 26, 28)
- The Source of Justification – The grace of God (vs. 24)
- The Ground of Justification – The propitiatory atoning sacrifice of Christ (vs. 25)



Justification is not merely an acquittal of guilt, but also a positive declaration of righteousness. It involves the imputation (i.e. crediting) of Christ’s Righteous merits to the believer as well as the believer’s unrighteous debts (i.e. sin) to Christ (**See 2 Cor. 5:21**)

5. Comparing Justification and Sanctification

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

| | |
|--|---|
| God’s Objective Act For us Declaring us Righteous Legally with a Righteousness Not Our Own but that of Christ and Not Works we do (Isa. 53:11; John 15:3; Rom. 3:20-26; 4:1-25; 5:1-2, 16-21; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16) | God’s Subjective Work Through us Making us Righteous Practically with a Righteousness Our Own of Works we do (John 15:1-5; Rom. 8:29; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:28-29; 2:6-7; 2 Thess. 2:13; James 2:22) |
| Immediate and Complete At the moment of Conversion (Rom. 5:1, 9-10; 8:1, 30; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5-7) | Progressive and Ongoing From the moment of Conversion (Rom. 6:1-23; 8:11-14; Eph. 2:10; 4:13; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:28; Titus 3:8; Heb. 2:11; 13:12) |
| The Same for All believers Regardless of circumstances and attended by No Tangible Signs . | Greater in Some believers than others Depending on circumstances and attended by Tangible Signs manifested by righteous thoughts, motives, speech and actions (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:13, 20-24; 1 Tim. 4:7-8) |
| Perfect and Complete in this life (Heb. 10:14) | Not Perfect and Incomplete in this life (Rom. 7:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 1:8-10) |
| Our Eternal Position “in Christ” that involves a change in our Status but not our Nature (Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 1:30) | Our Temporal Practice “in Christ” that involves a transformation of our Behavior due to the impartation of a New Nature at the moment of our Regeneration which is first evidenced in our Conversion and then subsequent Sanctification (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10) |
| The Past dimension of Salvation freeing us from the Penalty of Sin and Giving us Title to Heaven (Rom. 4:7-8; 5:9-10; 8:30, 18; 8:1-2; Titus 3:7) | The Present dimension of Salvation freeing us from the Power of Sin and Making us Fit for Heaven (Rom. 6:1-23; 8:2-4; Heb. 12:14) |

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