

Date: July 22, 2012

Subject: The Effect of Righteousness - Isa. 32:17

Justification, sanctification, and glorification, are just three terms used to describe salvation. The first and third of these we hear alot about; but so often, the second - sanctification - is neglected.

Justification

Justification, as you remember ("The Just shall Live by Faith"), means to be declared righteous, or innocent. We are born guilty of sin because of Adam's sin; in addition, ~~the~~ our own sinful actions that make up our life while we are still "dead in trespasses and sins;" (Eph. 2:1) brings further condemnation. "For the wages of sin is death;..." (Rom. 6:23). Justification accompanies the free gift of salvation.

"And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification."
Romans 5:16

Notice how justification itself is not a gift, God gives us the free gift of Christ's righteousness (verse 17); it's by His righteousness - not ours - that we become justified (innocent).
~~not ours~~

It is important to understand that we are declared righteous; because some teach that Christ's righteousness is infused to us. By infused, they mean that we become perfect - sinless, like Jesus; but this is not true, there is nobody who ever was, is, or will be perfect (sinless) in this life - except our Lord Jesus Christ,

"For there is not a just man upon earth,
that does good, and sins not."

Ecclesiastes 7:20

We are declared just - or innocent - because of what Christ endured for His people.

A criminal ^{is} standing guilty before the judge in a court room, he is guilty of breaking the law and must suffer the punishment.

The moment we are conceived, we are like this guilty criminal, but we are guilty in the eyes of God; however, upon receiving the gift of Christ's righteousness - we do not become infused with His righteousness - rather, we are now declared righteous. Christ paid the punishment for us. He ~~did~~

lived a perfectly obedient life, died, and was resurrected; it is because He lives, that we live also,

"Yet a little while, and the world sees Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also."

John 14:19

Returning to the illustration of the criminal in the courtroom, a man standing before the judge guilty of his crimes; but rather than this guilty man enduring the punishment, Another steps in front of him and says, "I will take his punishment, let him go..."

The demands of the law must be fully satisfied, the judge^{just} couldn't look the other way, he can't just free a guilty criminal - justification is not a gift - the demands of the law must be fulfilled, if not by himself, than by another. The punishment endured by the other person - let's call Him, "Advocate" - is the gift, He gave Himself to pardon the other, the law is now relaxed, it is satisfied, and the guilty man... is no longer guilty,

he is now declared righteous, ~~he~~ is justified - not because what he did was right, but he is justified because Another fulfilled his punishment.

So it is with us - those for whom Christ died - we are all guilty, but Christ satisfied the demands of the law on our behalf. He paid our penalty, thereby setting us free from the curse of the law,

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree;" Galatians 3:13

We are made innocent by our Advocate, we are justified because of Christ's righteousness; but remember, we are not born this way. We were born "the children of wrath, even as others" (Eph. 2:3); we begin our life like anyone else, in total rebellion against God, even though we are elected (Eph. 1:4). The usual sense of justification, when an unsaved elect of God (e.g. Saul) becomes justified, is when ~~the~~ God brings them to faith in Himself and forsaking all works of their own.

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds [works] of the law." Romans 3:28

Now this doesn't mean we just sit around and wait for God to make us believe, such a doctrine leaves people in unbelief. Just as there are some who teach that faith isn't enough, that you must add some work of your own - which is wrong - there are others who teach that you shouldn't believe because it's a work, and Jesus does it all for us - which is no better because it leaves people with nothing. The Apostles didn't preach the Gospel this way, nor did Jesus - we will never find such a doctrine taught in the Bible. Jesus truly did everything for His people, but His work didn't stop 2,000 years ago - nor even from the foundation of the world for that matter - His work continues today beloved, there is an effect in our lives by His work of righteousness.

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

Isaiah 32:17

"He Arose"

Consider the man sick of the palsy (meaning he was paralyzed and couldn't walk) in the ninth chapter of the book of Matthew. Here was a man who could not walk, & in verse 6 Jesus says to him,

"Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house."

Not only did Jesus tell a paralyzed man to stand up, but He even told him to carry his bed home! Now what did the paralyzed man do? Did he say, "Oh I can't walk, I must wait for Jesus to make me walk, I must wait for Him to work in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure (cf. Phil. 2:13). Jesus does it all, I can't do a thing, so I must sit here, because if it's God's will for me to walk, then He will make me to stand, and will force me to take each step. God must get all the glory, and I can't do anything...." ??

Did he say that? Did he just sit there? No beloved, perish the thought, for the very next verse says,

"And he arose, and departed to his house." Matthew 9:7

The Bible says, "he arose". He got up! He stood up! A paralyzed man attempted to stand... and succeeded! "He arose"! What is this but a graphic picture of salvation, notice how in verse 2 Jesus said, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." The man was paralyzed, he just wanted to walk again; why did Jesus tell him his sins are forgiven?

This is a picture of salvation beloved, a wonderful, beautiful picture. Now how was the paralyzed man made to stand? It's because he was healed by Christ first. The paralyzed man didn't heal himself, but notice how he didn't wait for God to make him stand either, he just got up - he stood up because Christ healed him.

It's the same with us beloved, we believe in Christ as our Advocate, because He healed us. Anybody who truly believes in Christ can only do so because God had saved them, because God healed them... but the Gospel isn't to wait to

believe this, the paralyzed man didn't wait for some mysterious feeling of some sort, he just did what Christ told him to do, he believed in the Word of God, and "he arose." This is how God justifies His people by faith, they believe...

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the Word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Acts 13:48

The word "believed" in the Greek text, is in the aorist active indicative tense. Simply put: aorist—simply means it happened in the past; indicative—meaning this is describing something that is, (as opposed to something that may or might be); and it's in the active voice, meaning the Gentiles heard the Gospel, the Gentiles were glad, the Gentiles glorified the Word of the Lord, and the Gentiles believed. They actively believed the Gospel, they didn't wait around, they didn't wait for something else, they believed, they actively believed... how? Because they "were ordained to eternal life" they "believed." The grace of God must always come first, He sends His Spirit into our heart and we

become "born again" (or "born from above"), but we can't hear or feel when this happens (John 3:3-8); but as many as are ordained to eternal life - which will be all whom are born of the Spirit - all will believe; not just agree with Bible doctrine, not have an outward show of a false profession with their lips, but with a true faith in Jesus Christ, "He died... for my sins." Like the Apostle Paul wrote,

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

What about you, dear precious soul? Are you justified by faith without the deeds of the law? Can you say with the Apostle Paul, "I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me."? Have you found your sweet repose as the One whom your soul loveth? Have you remained seated though Christ hath bid thee, "Arise"? Well what are you waiting for?

~~Shake~~ "Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion." (Isa. 52:2). Why are you still sitting in the dust, when the Saviour hath bid thee, "arise"? Why do you still have the bands on thy neck, when they are unlocked? ~~So~~ So stand up and "stand fast,"

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
Galatians 5:1

We must never give up, never despair, never stay seated when our Master says, "Arise." I pray the effect of His righteousness give you - O beloved soul - quietness and assurance for ever.

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:17

God willing, we will study sanctification next week.

Your servant for Jesus' sake,
H. A. Allen

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting by Pigott 1876

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, as Thy beauty fills my soul,
for by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art,
and Thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its every need,
compasseth me round with blessings: Thine is love indeed.

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;
resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.