

**Scripture:** Romans 5:1-21  
**Singing:** 9 – 390 – 337 – 81

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
that ye may abound in hope,  
through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13)

Shorter Westminster Catechism, q. 33

*Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone.*

### **THE FRUIT AND PROFIT OF BELIEVING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

#### I. Saving faith makes me righteous in Christ before God and heir of eternal life

##### A. Who is saying this?

1. God says this about *everyone that trusts in Jesus Christ* in His Word

a. Rom. 3:36; 4:3, 5; 5:1, 9; Acts 13:39; Gal. 5:1

b. He assures us of this through His promises and sacraments

2. A (believing) sinner is saying this: Lord's Day, q/a 59 - 60

a. He is not pretending to be good but admits he ***was and is*** a sinner

b. Yet he claims with *conviction and confidence to be righteous!*

3. What is meant with *I am righteous before God?*

a. In short, that God considers him *as perfect as perfect can be* as summed up in Lord's Day 44, q/a 113

*That even the smallest inclination or thought contrary to any of God's commandments never have risen in my heart, but that all times, in all situations, in every circumstance, that I have hated all sin with my whole heart and have always perfectly delighted in all righteousness.*

B. How is this possible for any sinner to claim *to be righteous before God* and therefore be entitled to inherit eternal life?

C. The Gospel Answer: *God declares a sinner who believes in Jesus as fully righteous (conformed to His Law), and therefore forever frees Him from any penalty upon sin and the wrath of God upon sin (Rom. 5:1, 9-10)*

1. God does this ***notwithstanding***

2. God does this ***without any merit of us***

3. God does ***only of mere grace***

4. God ***grants*** (*according to His own promise to which He bound Himself*)

5. God ***imputes unto me*** (*Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:5*)

D. What does God *now* (Rom. 5:9, 11) declare about *each and every believer*?

1. God declares ...

a. on basis of Christ's satisfaction imputed to my account

b. each believer who embraces the Gospel with a believing heart

c. as legally deserving eternal life

d. all **ONLY** on the basis of Jesus Christ's obedience in life and death

2. Where sin *abounded*, grace did much more abound!

a. His grace did not just cancel the fruits of Adam's doing

b. His grace secured salvation in the fruits of Jesus' doing (Rom. 5:9-10)

Close: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith X has made us free* (Gal. 5:1)

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Justification by faith is the very hinge and pillar of Christianity. (T. Watson)

Nobody understands Christianity who does not understand the words 'justified by faith only.' (John. Stott)