



## Faith Alone

### Part 1

Lesson Eleven

#### ***What Must I Do to Be Saved? Who Has the Authority to Answer this Question?***

- ❖ Scripture Alone (*Sola Scriptura*) is **foundational** and **essential** to answering the question of authority.
- ❖ Faith Alone (*Sola Fide*) is the **biblical** and **radical** answer to the first question.

## Justification by Faith Alone

### Definitions

*Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.* – Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

*Justification is a judicial act of God pardoning sinners, accepting them as just, and so putting permanently right their previously estranged relationship with Himself. This justifying sentence is God's gift of righteousness, His bestowal of a status of acceptance for Jesus' sake.*  
– J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology*

### Confessions

#### **The Second London Baptist Confession on Justification Under Article 1**

Those God effectually calls he also freely justifies. He does this, not by infusing righteousness into them but by pardoning their sins and accounting and accepting them as righteous. He does this for Christ's sake alone and not for anything produced in them or done by them. He does not impute faith itself, the act of believing, or any other gospel obedience to them as their righteousness. Instead, he imputes Christ's active obedience to the whole law and passive obedience in his death as their whole and only righteousness by faith. This faith is not self-generated; it is the gift of God.

#### **The Cambridge Declaration**

WE REAFFIRM that justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. In justification Christ's righteousness is imputed to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect justice.  
WE DENY that justification rests on any merit to be found in us, or upon the grounds of an infusion of Christ's righteousness in us, or that an institution claiming to be a church that denies or condemns sola fide can be recognized as a legitimate church.

## Seven Reasons Why Justification Is by Faith Alone

*Romans 3:19-28*

### 1. The **MEANING** of Justification.

*Romans 3:19-20, 28*

#### **Observations:**

- 1) Vocabulary from the **COURTROOM**.
- 2) Verdict by the just/righteous **JUDGE**.

- ❖ Justification is being **declared** **RIGHTEOUS** by God – *the just Judge* – in His heavenly courtroom of divine justice.
- ❖ Condemnation is being **declared** **UNRIGHTEOUS** by God – *the just Judge* – in His heavenly courtroom of divine justice.
- ❖ Justification is **a verdict** that **DECLARES us righteous** not **a process** wherein we are **MADE righteous over time**.

### 2. The **NEED** for Justification.

*Romans 1–3; especially 3:19-20, 23*

- ❖ Human sin is **UNIVERSAL** – *Everyone falls short of the glory of God and is unrighteous by birth and choice.*
- ❖ Divine condemnation is **INESCAPABLE** – *The wages of sin is death and God’s wrath already rests on all people.*

### 3. The **SOURCE** of Justification.

*Romans 3:21-24*

- ❖ The Source of Justification is God’s **GRACE ALONE**: *Justification is a **free gift** that is **freely given** by God to the undeserving, the unworthy, and ungodly.*
- ❖ Our works earn us what we deserve, which is **CONDEMNATION!** But since no one deserves being declared right in God’s sight, it must come from **GRACE ALONE!**

### 4. The **BASIS** for Justification.

*Romans 3:22, 24-25*

- ❖ The Basis of Justification is **CHRIST ALONE**: *Justification is made possible by His sinless righteousness and satisfactory work as the sinner’s substitute!*
  - 1) **His incarnation**: He lived the perfect **LIFE** we must but never can! (= Active Righteousness!)
  - 2) **His Crucifixion**: He died to be the perfect **SACRIFICE** we must be but never will be! (= Passive Righteousness!)
  - 3) **His Resurrection**: He rose again as proof of His perfect **RIGHTEOUSNESS** that is not of us! (= Alien Righteousness!)
  - 4) **His Ascension**: He sits at the right hand of the Father as the perfect **MEDIATOR + SACRIFICE** that we must have!
- ❖ Jesus’ substitutionary atoning work of redemption and propitiation is the basis of justification.
  - 1) Redemption: We **OWED** an infinite debt we could not pay **but** Jesus paid the infinite debt He did not owe.
  - 2) Propitiation: We **DESERVED** eternal punishment **but** Jesus suffered the eternal punishment He did not deserve.
- ❖ Some critics call justification a “**LEGAL FICTION**” as if God is just pretending we are righteous, when in reality we are not! But there is **nothing fictional** about Jesus dying in our place!

*Our justification by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone is **FACTUAL** and **HISTORICAL!***

- ❖ Justification is **not amnesty** or a **presidential pardon** where the guilty get off scot free without justice being met or any legal basis!

*Justification is not a synonym for amnesty, which strictly is a pardon without principle, a forgiveness which overlooks – even forgets – wrongdoing and declines to bring it to justice. NO, justification is an act of justice, of gracious justice....When God justifies sinners, he is not declaring bad people to be good, or saying that they are not sinners after all. He is pronouncing them legally righteous, free from any liability to the broken law, because he himself in His Son has born the plenty of their law-breaking.” – John Stott, The Cross of Christ*

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

**“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, ‘Let him who boasts, boast in the LORD.’” 1Corinthians 1:30-31**

**NEXT LESSON: Three More Reasons Why Justification Is by Faith Alone from Romans 3:19-28**