

## **“The Gospel that Justifies”**

Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores  
Galatians 3.1-29  
June 25, 2023.  
Westby UMC & Viroqua UMC

The word JUSTIFY is a judicial term that means to acquit, declare fair or pronounce a favorable sentence of acceptance, where the guilty person appears before God, the Just Judge, BUT instead of receiving a sentence of condemnation, as he really deserves, he receives full acquittal, and God declares him Righteous before HIM.

It is a Legal and instantaneous Act where God considers our sins as forgiven, and considers the Righteousness of Christ, as if it were ours, thus declaring us Righteous or morally honest in HIS Sight of him.

JUSTIFIED is God's verdict for the sinner who repents, and goes in FAITH toward HIM, based on the fact that Christ lived a righteous life in perfect obedience, which was expected that we should have lived, and also suffered death in the Cruz substituting all of us, in the Death that we deserved, paying in this way the Wage of sin and therefore we, who are Death, no longer have to pay it.

For this, to be justified before God, a double transaction took place:

1. Everything bad that we have (sins, iniquities, and rebellions) was to Christ and from Christ to the Cross.
2. All the good of HIM, HIS Life from him in perfect obedience to the Father passes to us being IN HIM.

It is NOT only that God removes the guilt of your sins, but also that HE attributes the perfect Life of Christ to us as if we had lived it.

As a Conclusion we can say that JUSTIFICATION is primarily a Change of Position on the part of the Sinner, BEFORE Condemned, and NOW Absolved; BEFORE under the condemnation and Wrath of God, BUT NOW under the Praise and Protection of God.

What Paul wants to make clear is that if it were due to merits or Works we would all be condemned. Paul is going to use the best Example of All, why? Because the Judaizing False Teachers considered Abraham as their Father, and the source of all spiritual blessings, and they believed that because they were carnal and earthly descendants of him they were already justified. But Paul turns around the issue v.6-9.

Abraham pleased God by his faith in Him, not by works of the law, in further than, there was no law yet. Abraham is the great illustration of justification by faith.

ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED Gen. 15:6) BEFORE CIRCUMCISION, introduced in Genesis 17; that is, he was Justified 400 years before the law. How? BY FAITH, by receiving with Faith the Promises of God, and treasuring them in His Heart, WITHOUT doing any Work.

So it is that all Believers, whether Jew or Gentile, are his spiritual children, following his example of faith.

In VERSE 8, Paul quotes Genesis 12:3 and 18:18, the Good News that Abraham received from God, where he offered Salvation to All Nations

“I will bless those who bless you, and those who curse you I will curse;  
and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

God Pre-evangelized Abraham, even BEFORE THE CROSS AND THE LAW ITSELF. God told him that he would be a blessing to all the families of the Earth, all the Nations through HIS DESCENDANT in the flesh, JESUS, through FAITH in HIM.

God thus showed Abraham the gospel message, and in Genesis 22: 15-18 he went even further and illustrated it to him (how it would be carried out, the means and manner); where God forgave the son of Abraham, BUT HE DID NOT FORGIVE HIS HIS, HIS SON, BUT GAVE HIM FOR ALL OF US.

Ultimately, Abraham obeyed the Voice of God and believed in HIM (he demonstrated his Faith in HIM by trying to sacrifice Isaac), and God took him into account as Justice; NOT by works, but because of genuine FAITH, he acted as a direct consequence of this Faith.

TODAY God saves the sinner on the same basis that He saved Abraham, that is, through FAITH.

When God called Abraham, and promised to turn him into a BLESSING TO THE WORLD THROUGH HIS DESCENDANTS of him. This promise found its full and total fulfillment in CHRIST, and therefore in All those who through Living Faith are united to HIM.

This PROMISE did NOT lose its validity either with the death of the patriarch Abraham (or his children), or with the introduction of the Law. THE INHERITANCE TO THE PROMISE ALWAYS WAS, IS AND WILL BE BY FAITH. The Inheritance in Christ of All Believers DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE LAW.

There is NO midpoint or balance between Law (Works) and Promise (Grace), since both are completely opposite and exclusive ways of Salvation. Salvation is always by grace through faith. only by faith is the justice required to be declared just by God obtained.