

Intro:

Justification. READ WLC 70.

EP (Main point of text): The person who is blessed is the one whose sinful debts are paid by Christ, and whose righteous works are God's by faith in Christ.

HP (Main application of text): *Thank Jesus you do not get what you deserve.*

Move 1: You deserve eternal punishment in hell.

LC: "pardoneth all their sins": forgives guilt by paying punishment. Release from death.

- Romans 4:4 works/reward w/ Rom. 3:23/6:23. All have sinned, and wages of sin is death.
- Should not try and justify yourself by works: Rom. 4:5.
- READ Rom. 3:22-25: "propitiation": covering (4:7). Blood atonement (Lev. 17:11).
- ... *whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.* (Act 10:43)

Punishment of *eternal* proportions requires: LC: "full satisfaction of Christ":

- *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins ...* (Eph 1:7)
- Rom. 4:7-8. Gk: "Not not". Psalm 32 (parallel of Ps. 51): context: guilt of adultery/murder.

Move 2: You are given eternal life in heaven.

LC: "accepteth and accounteth their persons righteous in his sight": God can look at you, talk with you, listen to you.

LC: "not for any thing wrought in them, or done by them": Not your works and not your faith.

- Faith not the basis, but means of justification. Not the grounds, but the gift.
- Titus 3:5-7 memory verse. *You are not righteous, but clothed with Christ's righteousness.*
- ... *a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, ... not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.* (Gal 2:16). Not yours.
- ... *found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.* (Phi 3:9).
- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: ... For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.* (Rom 1:16-17)
- "FAITH ALONE". Rom. 4:6: David's implication by "without works". Debt implies it.
- "Righteousness": You have none. Need God's. Vs. 5 "not working" Vs. 6 "w/o works".

- *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. (Rom 3:26-28). .*

LC: “only for the perfect obedience ... of Christ”. Not inherent, but objective righteousness.

- Only the God-man could assume your guilt / fulfill the eternal punishment / give eternal life.
- READ Romans 5:17-19. Righteousness required: only Christ’s will suffice. Received as gift.

Move 3: ***God’s pardon and perfection have been irreversibly declared upon you.***

LC: “act” one time declaration. Once it’s done, it’s final. Opposite: condemnation.

LC: “by God imputed to them”: Not infusion. Crediting. “accounted”. Like your sins to Christ:

- ... *God was in Christ ... not imputing their trespasses unto them; ... For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Co 5:19-21). Jesus was not literally made a sinner, but truly treated like one for you.*
- Context of Romans 4 is Genesis 15:6. Faith of Abraham, not Law of Moses.

Conclusion:

C. Hodge: “God does not pronounce the ungodly to be godly ; He declares that notwithstanding [your] personal sinfulness and unworthiness, [you are] accepted as righteous on the ground of what Christ has done for [you].” Thus, “What satisfies the justice of God, satisfies the conscience of the sinner.”

HP: *Thank Jesus you do not get what you deserve.*