

Justification

I. Past Justification

“God the Father’s verdict of acquittal and declaration of righteousness, pronounced on behalf of guilty sinners who believe upon Christ, based upon the virtue of Christ’s perfect life and sacrificial death credited to their account, their sin and guilt being credited to Christ’s account, and resulting in the pardon of all their sins, acceptance with God, and the gift of eternal life.”

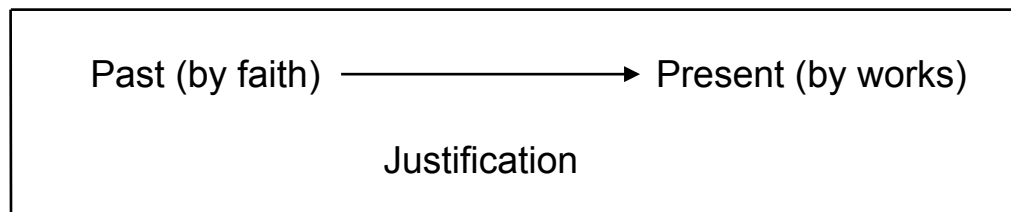
II. Present Justification

-Contrast Rom. 4:2 with James 2:21 / Rom. 5:1 with James 2:24

→Paul speaks about justification by faith (Past Justification); James about justification by works (Present Justification).

-James Buchanan ‘The Doctrine of Justification’ pp. 233-249 Past Justification (by faith, in Conversion) = Actual Justification; Present Justification (by works, in the Christian Life) = Declarative Justification

p. 234 “*In both cases it is one and the same justification that is spoken of,—his acceptance as righteous in the sight of God; but, in the one, it is considered simply as a fact, in the other, as a fact that is attested and proved. Actual Justification comes first, and is necessarily presupposed in that which is declarative; and hence, if anyone is declared to have been justified, we conclude that he was actually justified, or accepted as righteous in the sight of God.*”



-James teaches justification by works in James 2:21-25. Thesis: Faith without works is dead. James demonstrates this from common experience (vs. 15-17); from the nature of true faith (vs. 18-20); from the examples of two OT saints – Abraham and Rahab (vs. 21-26).

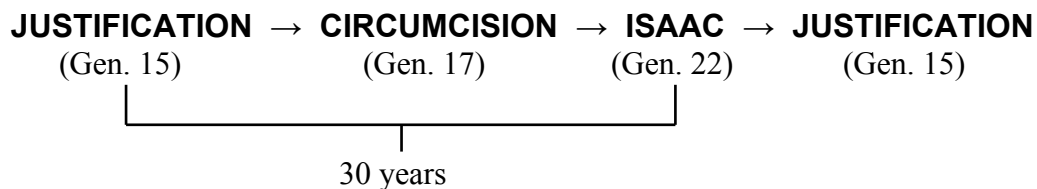
→The doctrine of justification by works and not faith alone proves James’ thesis that faith without works is dead.

-Justification by Works \neq Salvation by Works

-Rahab was justified after her conversion (v. 25) When was Abraham justified? Paul: before he was circumcised (Rom. 4:9, 10); James: after he was circumcised, when he offered up Isaac (vs. 21-23). Gen. 15:6 is quoted in Rom. 4 and James 2. Is Paul or James wrong or are they both right?

Romans 4: JUSTIFICATION → CIRCUMCISION
(Gen. 15) (Gen. 17)

James 2: CIRCUMCISION → ISAAC → JUSTIFICATION
(Gen. 17) (Gen. 22) (Gen. 15)



A. The Time of Present Justification

-subsequent to conversion; throughout the Christian life

B. The Nature of Present Justification

-The essence of Present Justification isn't acquittal, but demonstration.

-The experience of Present Justification isn't momentary, but continual and ongoing.

- The ground of God's verdict in Present Justification isn't Christ, but our works.

C. The Practical Significance of Present Justification

1) There is an inseparable connection between true conversion and godly living.

2) Present Justification by works provides a theological basis for the fundamental integrity of God's people.