

A Biblical view of our justification should shut our mouths from pride and open them for the praise of Christ's name.

I. **The Problem and Solution (Q#58)**

- A. Man's misery
- B. Justification defined
- C. What is righteousness?
- D. This then begs the question, what exactly is our righteousness before God?

II. **Biblical View of Righteousness (Q#59)**

- A. Faith is sole vehicle for our being declared righteous
 - 1. *Only by faith in Christ Jesus.*
- B. Law before faith
 - 1. *Although my conscience accuse me that I have grievously trespassed against all the commandments of God, and have not kept one of them.*
 - 2. *And further am as yet prone to all evil*
- C. Conditions of this faith
 - 1. *If I embrace these benefits of Christ with a true confidence and persuasion of mind.*
- D. Gift given
 - 1. *The full and perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ.*
- E. Nature of the gift
 - 1. *Without any merit of mine.*
- F. The reason for the gift
 - 1. *The mere mercy of God causes this righteousness to be imputed and given to me.*

- G. Glorious contents of the gift!
1. *As if neither I had committed any sin, neither any corruption did stick to me.*
 2. *Yes as if I myself had perfectly accomplished that obedience which Christ accomplished for me.*

III. **Results of this View (Q#60)**

- A. All pride is removed
- B. Christ is glorified as the source of our salvation
- C. Faith not works

Question 58:

What profit is there to you when you believe all these things?

Answer:

That I am righteous in Christ before God, and an heir of eternal life.

Question 59:

How are you righteous before God?

Answer:

Only by faith in Christ Jesus. Although my conscience accuse me that I have grievously trespassed against all the commandments of God, and have not kept one of them, and further am as yet prone to all evil, yet nevertheless, if I embrace these benefits of Christ with a true confidence and persuasion of mind, the full and perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, without any merit of mine, of the mere mercy of God is imputed and given to me, and that so, as if neither I had committed any sin, neither any corruption did stick to me, yes as if I myself had perfectly accomplished that obedience which Christ accomplished for me.

Question 60:

Why do you affirm that you are made righteous by faith only?

Answer:

Not because I please God through the worthiness of mere faith, but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God, and I cannot take hold of it, or apply it to myself any other way then by faith.