

Justification

Rom. 5:1-2

Introduction:

- A. Humanity declared unjust (Rom. 3:9-10, 23)
 - 1. Jew and Gentile without excuse (Rom 1:20; 2:1)
 - 2. Jew and Gentile are lawbreakers (Rom. 2:11-16; cf. 1 John 3:4).
 - 3. Jew and Gentile became such – not born such (Rom. 3:12-17)
- B. Humanity can be justified (Rom. 3:21-26).
 - 1. Without work (Rom. 4:6)
 - 2. By works (Jas. 2:23, 24).

Discussion:

I. “Works” Without Which We Are Justified.

- A. Paul contrasts two laws: “of works” - “of faith” (Rom 3:27)
 - 1. First to Jews (3:28, 29) - Second to all men (3:30).
 - 2. First anticipated second (Gal. 3:24, 25) - Second established first (3:31)
 - 3. First emphasized merit (2:13; 10:5) - Second mercy (4:4-6).
 - 4. First emphasized “law” - Second “faith” (cf. Gal. 3:11-12; Jno. 1:17).
 - 5. First simply “law”, “works” - Second simply “faith,” “grace” (4:2; 6:14)
 - 6. First compliance called “working” (4:4-5) - Second calling “believing” (3:26).
 - 7. First had some elements of second - vice versa.
 - 8. Second requires obedience (1:5; 16:26) - Second is law (5:13; 1 Cor 9:21)
- B. Abraham illustrates justification apart from “works” (4:1-4).
 - 1. Case illustrated Judaizers two conditions (Acts 15:1-4, 24).
 - a. Justified without “the law” or “works” – Lived and died before the law.
 - b. Justified without circumcision (4:10)
 - 2. Justified by forgiveness (mercy) not “debt” (works) (Rom. 4:5-8).
 - 3. Faith “walked” (4:12; cf. Heb. 11:8-10, 17-18).

II. “Works” by Which We Are Justified (Jas. 2:21)

- A. Three ways to be justified: Merit, unconditional mercy, or conditional mercy.
 - 1. If by merit, don’t need mercy.
 - 2. If by unconditional mercy – Universal salvation or partiality (cf. Rom. 2:11).
 - 3. If by conditional mercy – conditions must be “done”, “worked” or “obeyed” (cf. Phil. 2:12).
- B. No way to be conditionally justified without works or some kind.
 - 1. Faith is a work man does (John 6:27-29; Rom. 10:9, 10).
 - 2. Faith leads to other acts or steps of faith (cf. Acts 16:31-34; Acts 8:36 ff; Acts 2:38).
 - 3. Faith keeps us justified – conditionally (Heb. 3:12; Rev. 2:10; 1 John 1:7-9)

Conclusion:

- A. “Law of faith” is a grace system rather than merit – still must do it. (Jas. 1:25).
- B. “Law of faith” requires us to avoid sin, yet provides mercy (1 John 2:1)