

The terms of salvation – justification

The question in the OT

Job 25:4 *“How can a mortal be righteous before God?”*

The restatement of the problem in the NT:

Romans 3:20 *“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

God’s remedy:

Romans 3:21-26 *“But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”*

Definition:

Justification is a legal term that has two sides to it: negatively, it means to be cleared entirely of the personal record of guilt due to our sins; but positively it means to be declared righteous by God. The very opposite of justification is condemnation.

The three principles of justification:

Romans 3:24 *“...justified freely by his grace...”*

Romans 5:9 *“...justified by his blood...”*

Romans 5:1 *“...justified by faith...”*

The position of the believer in Christ:

Romans 8:1 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”*