

# Justified By Faith: Romans 4:25—5:1

*Justified By Faith*

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**Bible Text:** Romans 4:25; Romans 5:1; Romans 3:9

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He is risen, indeed.

You have your Bibles this morning? Open your Bibles to the book of Romans chapter four and there I would like for us to read verses 25 of chapter four and verse one of chapter five.

And I would ask, as you have come to Calvary Baptist Church this morning in the providence of God, that would you take these two verse and perhaps after you are done, and you are on your way back home, I wonder would you think about putting these two verses to memory? And would you think about these two verses and ask the Lord to open these two verses and write them on your heart and that you would be amazed by the content of the truths that are in these two verses and that you will remember of the fact that Easter of 2009 at Calvary Baptist Church you have come together.

Let's read these two verses together. Romans four verse 25 and then chapter five verse one.

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:<sup>1</sup>

*Our gracious heavenly Father, we have come together in the name of the Lord Jesus this morning. We thank you that we know that you are the risen Savior. We thank you that your Word so clearly declares to us that you have been raised from the dead, that our heavenly Father raised you from the dead. We thank you that we have gathered together in your name and we pray this morning that as we have gathered in these moments that you will write these truths upon our hearts. Show us the application and implications. Show us the truths that are connected with the resurrection from the dead. We ask it in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.*

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 4:25—5:1.

I was listening the other day to it was in the beginning of the week to a news program and they were talking about Christianity in the United States. It was on a large national news channel that I believe it was Judge Califano that said when he was talking about Christianity and he was talking about Easter in particular; he said that it means that there is hope for us. There is life after death.

As I was listening to that , I was thinking, you know, that is really true. However, there is a whole lot more than that. There is life for those who are outside of the Lord Jesus Christ who are spiritually dead.

You know, we don't realize that, but we come into this world as sinners. We have no spiritual goods, none whatsoever. We have no heart and desire and movement for God.

But there is hope. There is hope in the person and the work of the Lord Jesus. There is salvation, life from above, our sins are dealt with.

When I think about Easter and the application of what we just read that the Lord Jesus Christ was raised for our justification, it brings to my heart a great deal of joy when I think of the opportunity that I have here in this small building to preach and proclaim the unsearchable riches of the Lord Jesus, what a grand thing that salvation is , not an ifs, buts and maybes program. If it is left up to us, yes it is. We talked about it in Sunday school this morning how the church has right before our eyes the churches are changing right before our eyes with the content of the message. And we are really, in a sense, wandering away from the work of God and the grace of God and that which the Lord Jesus has come, with what the triune God has in mind when he saves a person.

Salvation means, folks, salvation and becoming a Christian and being a Christian, let me just give you a few thoughts here. It means a new heart. It means a new nature. It means a desire to become like the Lord Jesus in this life. It means that there is hope for the life that we live here and there is life to come to be eternally with him.

The truth that we read just a little while ago—and I want you to know that these truths were at the heart of what we commonly call the Reformation that took place in between 1500 and 1560. Our Lord used these truths to bring about a spiritual awakening that spread through all of Europe like a wild fire. There were thousands of churches that sprang up by the grace of God in Switzerland and France and England and Holland and the reformers of Luther and Calvin and Zwingli and Melancthon and others were used by God to preach the truth of the Word of God. The passage that is before us is a passage which we find in the heart of the wonderful Roman letter I want to call it—the Himalayas of the truth of the Word of God, that in this passage we find that he is talking about that man is totally, hopelessly lost in sin and he cannot save himself. And, as a matter of fact, he does not have the heart at all to seek after the things of God.

The apostle Paul had spent—and I want to say this here—the apostle Paul had spent some three chapters in proving the fact that man is sinful, both Jews and Gentiles alike and that he comes to the conclusion and he comes to the end of chapter three and really the

chapter four and there we find that he adds it all up, his summation of it, he is adding up, you see, mankind, he is saying, “Here is the spiritual arithmetic that I have come to that apart from the work of the grace that we are all, you see, in a dire, desperate strait and we cannot save ourselves.”

Let me read this to you, Romans chapter three. Those of you that have your Bibles you ought to underline and it you ought to put marks by it and asterisks and all kinds of faces with it because it is one of the most important portions of all of the Word of God. Romans chapter three verse nine.

Remember what Paul is trying... all of mankind both Jews and Gentiles are sinners.

What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.<sup>2</sup>

No hope, no ability, no righteousness, desperately done. The apostle Paul says ... all of mankind. Look for one that has righteousness. Look for one who is not desperately lost. Look for one who is seeking after God. Look for one that understands. Look for one. You are not going to find, not a person upon the face of the earth, past, present and future. They are all lost and undone.

What do you think so far?

You say, “Man, pastor, I thought I was going to come and get an Easter sermon that will make me feel good.”

But I tell you. Let the Word of God do its work and the Holy Spirit do its work of conviction and you see as the gospel is the evangelistic message, it is that good news that the Savior, that he has come to save us from our plight that we cannot, and do not want to save ourselves from.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Romans 3:9-18.

<sup>3</sup> Romans 3:19-20.

Why you say, “Pastor, I thought you were done.”

But, you see, the news is even getting blacker and I mean darker. Do you know there is not one person that is going to be able to be justified in God’s sight because they are all declared guilty sinners. They are all hopelessly lost and undone.

But you say, “Pastor, just a moment. Didn’t you just read a little while ago that the Lord Jesus Christ, the one in verse 24 says, ‘But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,’<sup>4</sup> that we believe on him who had raised up Jesus from our dead, we believe in the Father, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that raised the Lord Jesus up from the dead ‘who was delivered up for our offenses and who was raised again for our justification’?<sup>5</sup> Oh, pastor, didn’t you just read that there is hope?”

You see, the grand truth in this book of Romans is that on one hand we have mankind who is desperately lost and undone without any kind of righteousness that counts in the eyes of God without any kind of heart and a desire for God. And, as a matter of fact, just the opposite, you see, is true in mankind and then the Lord is saying, “There is hope and there is salvation. There is...” And he mentions that word “justification.”

“[He] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”<sup>6</sup>

What do you think that word “justification” means?

I looked it up in the Baptist Catechism for our children. In the Baptist Catechism of 2000 here is a simple question. And the question is number 30. It says, “What is justification?” We read a second ago in Romans five verse one, “Having therefore been justified by faith we have peace with God in the Lord Jesus Christ.”<sup>7</sup>

We read in chapter four verse 25, “[He] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”<sup>8</sup>

What does that mean, folks? What does that mean? Have you been justified? Are you, you see, are you justified in the eyes of God and what does that mean exactly?

And it was that truth that was preached and proclaimed in the Reformation that literally caused thousands of churches to spring up, you see, for people came to know in a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus. For the first time they heard the message: How can a guilty sinner that stands, you see, guilty before the bar of God, before the holiness and eyes of God that sees and knows all things, how can he be right with God? That is the question.

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<sup>4</sup> Romans 4:24.

<sup>5</sup> Romans 4:25.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> See Romans 5:1.

<sup>8</sup> Romans 4:25.

See, if you want to go to heaven, you have got to be right with God. If you want to go to heaven you have to have paper work that shows perfection. If you want to go to heaven you need to show, have a paper work that has no liabilities on it. If you want to go to heaven, it is not just simply because you have walked an aisle or because you shook a preacher's hand. If you want to go to heaven, it is not because you are giving your money and your tithe to the church. If you want to go to heaven it is not because of acts of religious activities that you have done. If you want to go to heaven listen to me, my friend. There must be perfection accredited in your account. There must be a paperwork that is clean that shows no liability, no, none whatsoever.

Now that is a load, isn't it? That is the gospel. Justification is to be pardoned of sin and declared right with God. Sinners are justified on the basis that Christ paid their penalty on the cross. Only those who trust Christ for their salvation are justified. However, I want to say here on this question 30, there is more that needs to be added to that. It is not just simply that the Lord Jesus, you see, paid for the penalty on Calvary's cross. There is more that is involved in, you see, not just the forgiveness and the cleaning up and paying the justice end of it for me. But there must be profession that it must be added into my account. And, you see, that perfection is added to my account on the basis of the Lord Jesus' righteousness. It is being exchanged for my righteousness. The perfection of the Lord Jesus is put in my account and when the Lord looks at... what does he see? He sees the righteousness and the beauty of none other than his beloved Son in whom he is well pleased because he was delivered up for my offenses and he was raised again for my justification.

That is salvation. And nothing less than this can get it. It is not just simply, folks, it is not just simply accepting Jesus or letting Jesus do something or somehow or another... it is a... we have got to know why am I free. Why is there hope? Why am I alive? Why do I have hope for this life and the life to come?

There is another definition of justification. It is to be pardoned of sin and declared right with God. It is God's act whereby he declares that a person has met all of his standards for holiness. The moral quality is God's holiness. Justification is God, the holy God, declares a sinner not guilty. He declares him just as if he had never sinned.

And that is the reason that I am a believer in the fact that once a person is truly converted and saved that if he, when he has been born from above, that it is an impossibility for him to lose his salvation because once the gavel of God comes down and he declares a person just as if he had never sinned, once he has declared that person, you see, righteous in his sight, once he has taken the righteousness of his own dear Son and he has imputed that righteousness into our account, it is an impossibility to be drawn away from that. He is once saved, always saved.

That is the reason the Easter message is so important to us.

I mean he is declared just as if he had never sinned. Did you get that? Did you all get that?

Folks, visitors and guests and members alike, you say, “What is it to be saved?”

It means that God the righteous, holy, just God declares us just as if we had never sinned. It is on the basis of grace through faith in the finished work alone, period. And I mean we must underline that. It is not grace and faith, plus this or that, it is grace period.

And so what a grand thought. I wrote on my notes, “How, how, how?”

Our passage says—and all I have got is 10 minutes left—for us to briefly look at verse 25.

You say, “Preacher, I want to how. How can my dirty laundry ? how can my sin of commission, how can the vileness of my heart, how can the evil of my thoughts, how can those things that have been a part of my life ever since I came into the world, how can all of that be done with and cleared off? I want to know how.”

And I don’t want you to leaving this morning without you having... with you having a question and a thought that have I done all that I have done this morning may I have preached none other to whom that, you see, was delivered up for our offenses and to whom is none other than the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know what the Christian does when he comes to the heart of witnessing? We were talking about this morning and what a sad testimony in our nation that 1% of those who name the name of Christ and profess the Lord Jesus, there is only 1% of those people that are actually witnessing and telling other people about the Lord Jesus. Did you know that? And I think part of the problem is it is because of the fact that most people who name the name of Christ really have nothing to say. But, oh we have got a lot to say. Guilty, vile am he. For of such a worm as I, for when I realized and recognized that oh wretched man that I am, who shall save me from this body of this death?<sup>9</sup> Who shall save me?

Whom God hath delivered up for our offenses, none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, none other than God himself.

“In my placed condemned he stood, sealed my pardon with his blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior.”

And so when we talk about the things of God we are not talking about the German Baptist preacher at the country church. We are talking about the message that goes from this humble concrete brick building, that goes out of these doors, that we say, “I have something to say. Let me tell you about the Savior who has come in order that we might be justified and be right in the eyes of God.”

And who is that? It is none other than the anointed, appointed Savior.

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<sup>9</sup> See Romans 7:24.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”<sup>10</sup>

“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.”<sup>11</sup>

The Lord Jesus.

Folks, don't let the news of this world that we watch all over the place and we are talking about the ecumenical marriages and I mean the ecumenical coming together of all, the main religions from all over the globe. Folks if it is not the person and work of the Lord Jesus. If it is not, you see, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ who loved the world and sent his Son. I have got news for you. You are still in your sins and you are going to be lost.

There is but one way and that way that we have is the way of the cross, the way of the Lord Jesus. It is such a wonderful thing to see all of you here this morning, that I can stand before you and say there is but one way.

The Lord Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”<sup>12</sup>

The second thing in this passage is this. We find in our text, “[He] was delivered for our offences.”<sup>13</sup> I don't know anybody watch any movies this week? I noticed that *The 10 Commandments* was on this yesterday and there are other... you see other flicks that you see try to portray the death and the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And I know that you remember the passions of Christ three or four years ago there was a big thing. You see, I want to ask you the question. You see, he was delivered up for our offenses and we must realize and recognize, why did he die on Calvary? What happened on the cross, you see? What happened on the cross?

On one hand if you look at it with human eyes you say, “I mean, look at this man. He comes. He performs miracles. He calms the sea, he raises, you see, people from the dead, he gives eyes to the blind. He helps the lame and he feeds the multitudes and there comes a time and a place where the crowd yells, “Crucify him. Give us Barabbas. Nail him to the cross. Away with him.”

And it looks like that it was mankind that. Well mankind had an integral part to play. But I will tell you the reason, the result, you see, what happened on Calvary's cross, what happened on Calvary's cross was the result of the depravity of the human heart. On the surface we contemplate and we look at people. They are a mad crowd with the wickedness of the heart displayed. But when we look at Scripture and we begin to

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<sup>10</sup> 1 Timothy 2:5.

<sup>11</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21.

<sup>12</sup> John 14:6.

<sup>13</sup> Romans 4:25.

evaluate and investigate in the Word of God, what do we find in the Scriptures why the Lord Jesus died? Why did he die? Let me tell you why he died.

Somebody says, “Well, he died so he could defeat death.”

Somebody else will say, “Well, he died because he has an enemy and he has come to destroy Satan.”

There is all kinds of reasons, you see. They may come and so that is the reason he died.

Do you want me to tell you why he died? He died because of the holiness and the righteousness of God. Did you see he is on a mission to call for himself a sinful people with no righteousness and his righteousness and holiness demands a perfect sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Christ came in order that you and I might have life, that all was due to us, that all, you see, that God was demanding of himself, that God might be just and the justifier of him that believeth.<sup>14</sup>

So hear this. He didn't just take our sins and sweep them under the rug and say, “I am not going to look at them no more.” What did he do? He openly, publicly displayed. In chapter three verse 25 we read, “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins.”<sup>15</sup>

In Romans chapter eight verses 32, “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”<sup>16</sup>

In Romans chapter eight verse three we read that God, “Sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”<sup>17</sup>

What is it? You see, who is it that the Lord Jesus was delivered up? The Lord Jesus was delivered up by his heavenly Father, his heavenly Father pulled out the sword of justice and pierced his own Son and there in our place he stood condemned for us.

Do you follow me? But that is not all. We find—and we already made that very plain—for our offences. Why did he do that? The just for the unjust, the substitute and the satisfaction, the wrath of God, the sword of justice, the eternal punishment that was due to you and me. He was stricken and condemned in my place.

Didn't you all study that last week in Isaiah chapter 53?

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See Romans 3:26.

<sup>15</sup> Romans 3:25.

<sup>16</sup> Romans 8:32.

<sup>17</sup> Romans 8:3.

<sup>18</sup> Isaiah 53:4.



We don't have time, but more than that I mean how do we know, folks, how do we know that this life that we enjoy and that this new heart that has given and that eternity that, you see, it is only dependent on time, is safe and secure and sure, how do we know that, folks?

He was what? Stricken and smitten of God. He was buried. You remember that they wanted a sign. They said, "Give us a sign."

And he said, "I am only going to give you a sign. And the sign is going to be of Jonah."

And what was the sign of Jonah? Jonah was inside the fish for three days. What was the sign, you see, that the Lord Jesus gave to them. He said, "This temple you are doing to destroy, but it is going to be raised again."

What is it that we know and how do we know that I am saved and I am a Christian? How is it, Travis, that I can stand boldly before all of you and say I am going to heaven not a question mark in my mind because it is all done by the Lord Jesus Christ. He was raised for my justification.

Folks, if that was a Mickey Mouse program or if was a hoax or a lie the tomb still would be occupied. But what happened? He was raised for our justification? He was raised for that which you and I could not produce. And then we find in the next verse, we find "Having, therefore, been justified by faith we have peace with God."<sup>19</sup>

Oh, my goodness. This blows me away doesn't it, that one hand we have saw the extreme. There is none righteous. There is none that seeketh after God. But now in the Lord Jesus Christ there is a righteousness he took care of all that God might be justified and justifier of him that believeth and now by faith on the basis of grace alone in the finished work of Christ that I have been acquitted from and now I have peace with God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What do you own?

You say, "Man, I tell you what. I own a lot of stocks and my stocks is on haywire these last few weeks, last few months."

If you are trusting in this or that and on and on and on, forget it. But I tell you what. If you have the Lord Jesus in your heart and you have peace with God, then you have access to the throne of grace and then as you have access to the throne of grace you have got hope and that hope makes not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> See Romans 5:1.

<sup>20</sup> See Romans 5:5.

Folks, that is what Easter means to me. What it means to me is that you see the Lord Jesus Christ. And I want to ask you. If you ask me, I have no ready made quick answer when you say, "Why did he do that?"

I don't know why he done it. He simply done it because he wanted to do it that all praise and glory will go to him. Oh, I am so glad that he did. And I am standing before you this morning. I don't know what is in your heart, but my prayer is this. It is that you take these two verses of Scriptures home with you and that you memorize them and put them in memory and that you would say, "Oh, Lord, will you teach me what they mean? Will you teach me what it means to have peace with you? Will you teach me what it means to be justified? Will you teach me what it means to have access into this grace where in I stand? Will you teach me what it is that I glory in tribulation? Will you teach me what it is that I have all of these things in my heart because of what you have done for me?"

We are going to have the Lord's Table here in just a second. The Lord's Table is a reminder of the fact that the Lord Jesus said, "As often as you take and drink and eat of this fruit, that you are doing it in remembrance of me and that you do that until I come again."

Now this table is a picture of, if you will, , of the fellowship that God has with his people. And he would say to all who are true believers, who have turned from their sins and have turned in repentance to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is not my table. But it is the Lord's Table and he said, "Don't take it unworthily." The only way that we can take it worthily is to recognize: Look how far I have fallen short of the glory of God. I have boasted nothing other than then mercies that are found in Jesus and I come and I thank you for the reminder of the fact is that you have died and you have paid for and you have lived for all that was due to me.

And so I want to ask you this morning if you are a true believer, if you know the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Savior, if you are following and pursuing after him for the rest of your days and if you want to be holy and righteous for the rest of your life and become like him, I invite you to this table.

Amen