

## **WHAT WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY**

### **Marc Gibson**

To be “justified” means “to show to be right or righteous” (Vine); “to render (i.e. to show or regard as) just or innocent” (Strong). Since all men have sinned (Romans 3:23), all are guilty in the sight of a righteous God. Therefore, all need to be justified in the sight of God. How are we justified? We are justified by...

**THE BLOOD OF JESUS** – The apostle Paul wrote, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been *justified by His blood*, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:8, 9). Man cannot save himself by his own wisdom or power. We need help from a higher source. God, in His wisdom and love, provided the means by which we can be justified in His sight. This great plan involved the sacrifice of His Son on the cross so that His innocent blood was shed for us who are guilty of sin.

Jesus “washed us from our sins in His own blood” (Revelation 1:5). This blood shed willingly for us can “purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14). Blood has been shed by many people on earth for noble and patriotic reasons, yet none has been shed or will be shed that can provide your justification in the sight of God except the blood of Jesus. The power of His blood is available to all, but there is something man must do...

**FAITH** – Again, Paul wrote, “Therefore, having been *justified by faith*, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1, 2). We are justified by faith which is a conviction of heart produced by the hearing of the word of God (Romans 10:17). If we are to be justified by the blood of Jesus, we must have faith in Jesus and His truth.

True faith is a genuine belief in the word of God that will result in obeying all the commandments of God. Being justified by faith will, of necessity, involve obedience to whatever God has commanded. This is why faith without works (obedience) is a dead faith that will not produce any justification. Can works truly justify a man? Read on...

**WORKS** – Many get this far and then say, “No one is justified by works!” But this could not be further from the truth. The Bible says, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). These works are works of obedience to God’s will as illustrated by Abraham and Rahab (James 2:20-23, 25).

These works of faithful obedience are not works of merit by which we try to save ourselves. We are relying completely upon the grace of God in the revelation of His will for us today. The blood of Christ justifies the sinner when he believes and obeys God’s word. And all the glory goes to God. Have you been justified? The blood of Jesus is available if you have faith and are willing to work the will of God.