



“having been justified by His grace”

In one sense, that is a summary of all we've seen so far; but in the most important sense, this statement is a single part of the process of God saving us, in fact it is the **crucial** part.

To 'justify' is to **declare righteous**; the act of a judge declaring the opposite of condemnation.

Luke 18:9-14 (Matthew 5:20, 48)

While the working Pharisee remained unjustified, the believing tax collector received full justification by **faith alone**.

Romans 3:20-25

In justification, God the Judge not only declares us **“not guilty”** but also declares us **“righteous.”**

Our salvation rests not only on Christ's atoning **death**, but also in His **life** of perfect obedience.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Our sins were **imputed** to Christ and His righteousness is imputed to us. How any of us who were dead in sins can be declared 'just' before a holy God: Jesus bore our sins, we are **clothed** in His righteousness.

Romans 8:31-33

Justification is by **faith** alone through **Christ** alone by **God** alone. That's what Titus 3:7 says we have been “justified by His **grace**.”

Justification:

- Means we are declared righteous, not **made** righteous.
- Is both acquittal and **acceptance** – it involves both the forgiveness of sins and receiving the righteousness of Christ.
- Is both exclusive and **extensive** – there is no middle ground, either you are justified by God or you are not, and if you are, it means all your sins are dealt with: past, present, and future.
- Is instantaneous and **irreversible** – it is not a process, it is a declaration and it cannot be lost or overturned because it is declared by God and there is no higher court.
- Is received **through** faith not because of faith.

Justification creates no actual change whatsoever **in** a sinner's nature or character. Being justified is a divine edict that changes our status **before** God the Judge only, but it carries ramifications that guarantee other changes will follow.

God's Word expresses God's will for man as man. It was given to guide men in the **life** of godliness. The same **grace** that we are justified by is what enables us to live that life. (*Titus 2:11*)

Justification takes place outside sinners and changes our standing before God where **sanctification** is internal and changes our state before God. Those two must be distinguished but can never be **separated**. Both are essential elements of salvation.

As Christians we serve God not **for** life but **from** life as His already justified and adopted sons and daughters. It will be our joy to strive to live by His Word and so **please** our heavenly Father who loved and saved us.

“we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life”

The hope of eternal life – the hope of inheriting all of God's blessings and promises forever – is a **certainty**.

Romans 8:30

The justified man can know that **nothing** will ever separate him from the love of his Savior and God. It is the doctrine of justification by grace through faith that means we are eternally **secure**.