

THE CONCEPT OF JUSTIFICATION

…TRANSCRIPT OF A WORDFEST 2020 TEACHING ON LIVING STONES BY REV. TEMILOLU ALIU

Hello Brethren! Good evening. I believe we're all excited tonight. I want to officially welcome you to WordFest 2020! This is the second edition of our annual WordFest and I know it can only keep getting better.

This year's WordFest is going to be peculiar. We will deal with sundry issues according to the Pattern the Lord has given us for this edition. All things are ready and we're setting sail already. We're starting this year's WordFest with the Back to Basics Series.

I'll kick off tonight with the **CONCEPT OF JUSTIFICATION**

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Let's have a word of prayer as we take today's teaching.
Father, we thank you for the privilege we have once again to gather around Your Word these 40 days WordFest. As we begin tonight, we ask that You would, teach us, train us, minister to us, and enlighten us.

Thank You Father because you will do these and much more. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

One of the fundamental Doctrines of the Bible is the doctrine of Atonement. This doctrine has three concepts.

1. The concept of justification

2. The concept of reconciliation

3. The concept of redemption

And in case you're wondering, atonement simply means to make amends. When Jesus died on the cross, he did the work of atonement. By sacrificing His life, He made amends on our behalves.

Justification is the impact of atonement on God's justice/legal system

Reconciliation is the impact of atonement on God's friendship/fellowship system

Redemption is the impact of atonement on God's rescue/asset system

The one we are focusing on tonight is the concept of JUSTIFICATION. This might seem to be a very simple and basic topic. But I have realized that we need to teach this over and over again and put people in remembrance of what the word of God says about the foundation of our Christian faith.

So what is justification? Justification simply means to discharge and acquit.

The two components of justification are:

1. Discharge from penalty

2. Acquittal from guilt

In essence, a man is justified when he is declared righteous - (in this case, to be declared right with God). The only way to be justified by God; to be declared right with God, is through faith in the work of atonement done by Jesus Christ on the cross.

See 2 Corinthians 5:21
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.

Read those last 2 words - **IN HIM!**

I'll refer to it again later

I like how the Message translation puts this verse
"How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God."

So when Jesus died on the cross, He hung on that cross as our substitute. He took on our sins in exchange for his righteousness. Jesus is the "just" one. He has always been right with God. On the other hand, we are the guilty ones that can never, by ourselves, be right with God. So our sin was imputed upon Him and His righteousness was imputed upon us.

That was what Isaiah said in Isaiah 53:4-5
"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

This was the prophecy of what the Messiah would come to do. And that was exactly what Jesus did. This concept is the teaching of the gospels

We are sinners and ought to be punished. It's what we deserve. But Jesus took it all on our behalf, even though he didn't deserve it. By doing this, he discharged us from punishment.

See, if we are called sinners, we are guilty as charged. But what Jesus did was to bear that guilt on the cross so that we can be acquitted. Because of Jesus, we are no longer guilty of sin. And because of Him, we no longer deserve to the punished. Now, we are justified. We have a right standing before God - this is what the Bible teaches about justification.

Guilty people like you and I put our faith in what Jesus did on the cross. And immediately, we receive forgiveness of sin and assume a right standing before God. Christ’s righteousness is credited to the account of everyone who believes in Him and puts faith in His finished work on the cross.

Kai! Do you know what this means?

When God looks at you, He sees the righteousness of Christ. He sees a sinless, flawless, perfect fellow - Just the way He sees Christ. Now, that's huge! You know that's not who you are. But you see, that's the beauty of salvation.

Read carefully Romans 3:21-24 (TLB)
But now, God has shown us a different way to heaven— not by "being good enough" and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way (though not new, really, for the Scriptures told about it long ago).

Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us "not guilty"—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like.

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal; yet now God declares us "not guilty" of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.

Did you see that?

Is anyone excited about this reality?

Now, let's read verses 27-28 of Romans 3
Then what can we boast about doing to earn our salvation? Nothing at all. Why? Because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds; it is based on what Christ has done and our faith in him.
So it is that we are saved by faith in Christ and not by the good things we do.

There is no other way the Bible teaches salvation and justification other than this. No other way!

See Romans 5:18
Yes, Adam's sin brought punishment to all, but Christ's righteousness makes men right with God, so that they can live.

This is pretty simple and straight forward, really. The Bible's teaching on justification is very clear. And that's what we should teach. That's what we should believe.

See, I know that the concept of justification can be taught incorrectly. It can be wrongly taught as licentiousness. But we won't disagree with the Biblical concept of justification because some people misuse it. We are justified because we are in Christ. Period!

2 Corinthians 5:21
"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"

Now let me say this... As much as we are in Christ as believers, Christ is also in us.

That we are in Christ is the concept of Justification

That Christ is in us is the concept of regeneration.

I'll explain it with an allegory

Imagine this headline

BRITISH CROWN PRINCE MARRIES UNEDUCATED VILLAGE GIRL FROM IYANFOWOROGI NIGERIA

A girl who has never left her village!

If that kind of marriage takes place, the girl would be taken out of the village because she married a crown prince and she would not only start living in Britain, she will enjoy the British royal lifestyle even if she can't speak any English.

But then, it's one thing to take the girl out of the village. And it's another thing to take the village out of the girl. Taking the girl out of the village is like the concept of justification. She was brought into royalty in an instant. The status of her husband qualified her for that

She didn't need to do anything special. And she couldn't have become a member of the royal family no matter how hard she tried. There was nothing she could do to merit it!

Now, taking the village out of the girl is like the concept of regeneration, which kick starts the process of sanctification. When she gets to the Buckingham palace, royalty will be put into her. You and I know this would take a process.

That's exactly how our union with Christ is.

Jesus has taken us out of sin - That's justification.

Jesus has taken sin out of us - That's regeneration! And it is the springboard for sanctification. Both regeneration and sanctification are very important concepts of the Christian faith. But they must not be taught to the exclusion of the concept of justification.

The same way, we must not teach justification to the exclusion of regeneration and sanctification. For that would be licentiousness.

So this is what the Bible teaches

We are in Christ – Justified

Christ is in us - Regenerated

We live out the Christ life – Sanctified

Now it makes more sense when we read John 15:4-5
Abide in me, and I in you. *As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*
I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

See how TLB puts that phrase, ***"Take care to live in me, and let me live in you."***

That's my charge for you today

Justification never happens without regeneration. They both go hand in hand

In the next two days, we will talk about the concepts of regeneration and sanctification. But for today, my goal is to make clear the concept of JUSTIFICATION. In the next two days, we will talk about the concepts of regeneration and sanctification.

I hope this teaching blessed you and supplied clarity.

Let me quickly give an opportunity to those who want to accept Jesus as their Lord tonight.

All you need do, is put your faith in Christ. And you'll be saved.

If you're like that and you're reading this, you want to live in Christ and you want Christ to live in you, please say this short prayer.

Lord Jesus,

I acknowledge that I'm a sinner, and I cannot save myself.

Today, I put my faith in your finished work on the cross of Calvary.

I confess you as my Lord.

From now on Jesus, abide in me; and I in You.

Thank you for saving me.

In Jesus' Name.

Amen!

Now, you are in Christ and Christ is in you!

Welcome to God's family!

If you just said that prayer, please get in touch so that we can help you grow in the faith

I believe we were all blessed tonight

Father we thank You for Your word. Thank You for the clarity of truth and for enlightenment. Let this truth dwell richly in us and prompt a response of deep worship and absolute commitment from us to You.

We love you Lord, because you loved us first. We are forevermore grateful!

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Stay blessed, everyone.

See you again tomorrow

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