

August Teaching Theme: What is the Gospel?

讲员 Speaker: George Wong

题目 Topic: "Justification by Faith"

经文 Scripture: Romans 3:9-26

Monthly Idea: This month's theme is "the Gospel" and its implications. **The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that Jesus is King and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever**, thus we must give our allegiance to King Jesus. Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - a downpayment of our inheritance in the Kingdom. **The Spirit applies *the benefits of the gospel* to those who respond with *allegiance!***

This week we explored the ***Gospel benefit* "Justification."** This benefit is the one most heard of and discussed in Protestant church circles, often confused for the Gospel proper instead of a benefit of the Gospel. Those who give their "allegiance" to King Jesus are now "justified," meaning they **are declared not guilty of sin** through the unbounded grace of God found in Jesus' death on the cross. The Gospel *benefit* of "justification" both frees the follower of Jesus from both the **penalty and the power of sin.**

Resources:

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (English) (5:48)

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (Chinese) (4:22)

If you have not watched this video yet as a group do so this week

[Sermon Slides](#)

Important Notes (from Pastor Will):

Notes on Romans 3:9b-26 (Question 4):

- Notice in verse 9, all are under not just the penalty of sin but also the **"power of sin."** Sin is more than just a "wrong deed" but it is a beastly power that seeks to devour us. This power manifest itself in participation in evil. A helpful story to read to grasp this picture is how sin is characterized and multiples in the story of Cain & Able (and eventually Lamech) in Genesis 4. Sin is characterized by a beast that wants to devour Cain. Cain bows down to this beast killing his brother. 5 generations later Cain's great-grandson Lamech boasts in his sin of having multiple wives and killing with vengeance. (As a lead make sure you read this passage, and if you have time after the discussion questions look at it as a group).
- Through the law, we become conscious of our sin (Mosaic Law). The Torah to Paul reveals the tragic news that humanity is subjugated to sin. (The law is like a magnifying glass - revealing the depths of sin.)
- If God is "just" he can rightly prosecute and punish all of humanity and their involvement in creating **"Hell on Earth."**

- **Paul makes clear that life doesn't work as a scale of "good works" vs. "bad works"** but that all humanity has been involved with evil so that scales don't matter and it won't save you!
- Two very important things going on in this passage from the phrase "works of the law":
 - (1) On the one hand, the "works of the law" seems to mean no more than the "works that the law requires" and embraces **all 613 commandments** of the Torah.
 - (2) On the other hand, the phrase cannot be divorced from its social context whereby faithful observance of the law would mean **separation from Gentile social spaces** and require the maintenance of boundaries to preserve the purity of Jewish communities
- Paul here in my opinion is both referencing the idea that "enough works" can't save you and breaking down the socio-cultural-ethnic barrier built up between Jews and Gentiles under the ceremonial law. A proper reading of the Torah discloses its inability to deliver persons from the evil within themselves.
- Paul then uses **three images for salvation**—justification, redemption, and sacrifice—to explain how God's righteousness becomes a saving event for those who believe in Jesus Christ
 - (i) **First, "all are justified freely by his grace."** On justification, a law court metaphor, I've already argued that justification is **God's declaration that a person is forgiven, acquitted, and in a right relationship with God** based on Jesus' death and resurrection. Justification is a gift rooted exclusively in God's undeserved favor. No one ever earns the right to be righteous before God; indeed they cannot (Rom 3:20), which is why salvation must be all of grace
 - (ii) **Second, "the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."** The mention of redemption would bring to the mind of Jewish readers the exodus, which was the great act of liberation that God wrought for the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and also God's promise to the Babylonian exiles for a new day of redemption in a new exodus. By and large, however, **redemption was associated with the release of captured prisoners of war and the manumission of slaves from service**
 - (iii) **Third, "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement." (mercy seat).** The "mercy seat," the cover of the ark of the covenant over which Yahweh appeared on the Day of Atonement, and over which the blood of sacrifices was poured. We are *expiated* -" **cleansed of sin** and the effects of sin"

Thoughts on Discussion Question 5:

- God loves his creation so much that through Jesus he will rid the world from evil and injustice while saving humanity from the punishment they deserve for their involvement in it. God both cares deeply about "justice" and will punish evil while simultaneously in his mercy providing a way out of our enslavement to sin/evil.
- Embracing grace means embracing more than the gift of my own salvation. Embracing grace means embracing a story that shapes and transforms an entire community. (Grace

doesn't negate justice, nor should it in the life of the believer - we must hold both in together in tension.)

Discussion Questions:

- (1) 请解释什么是“因信称义”？
Please explain what is “Justification by Faith Alone”?
- (2) 为什么我们不能“行律法或行善称义”？
Why is it by the works of the law or charity, no flesh will be justified in God's sight?
- (3) “因信称义”是廉价的福音吗？为什么？
Is “Justification by Faith alone” a cheap salvation? Why?
- (4) Read Romans 3:9b-26 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage? What does this tell us about the state of humanity? What is the function of the law? How are we given “righteousness”?
- (5) What does it mean for God to be both “just” and the “justifier”? What does this reality tell you about God's character?
- (6) **Memorization Tool:** What is the Gospel? How do we respond to the Gospel? What can the followers of Jesus look forward to? What is the Gospel benefit “Justification”? (Each week we will build on this).
 - (a) The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that **Jesus is King** and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever.
 - (b) We are called to respond by giving our **allegiance** (inclusive of faith, loyalty, trust) to King Jesus.
 - (c) Our hope is looking forward to Jesus return establishing the **New Heaven and New Earth**, where those who give King Jesus allegiance will live forever.
 - (d) The Gospel benefit “justification”: Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are **declared not guilty** being freed from both the penalty of sin and the power of sin.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

来信耶稣因信称义
黄牧师。8/16/20

“但如今，神的义在律法以外已经显明出来，有律法和先知为证：就是神的义，因信耶稣基督加给一切相信的人，并没有分别。因为世人都犯了罪，亏缺了神的荣耀；如今却蒙神的恩典，因基督耶稣的救赎，就白白地称义。神设立耶稣作挽回祭，是凭着耶稣的血，借着人的信，要显明神的义；因为他用忍耐的心宽容人先时所犯的罪，好在今时显明他的义，使人知道他自己为义，也称信耶稣的人为义。”

罗马书 3:21-26

“所以凡有血气的，没有一个因行律法能在 神面前称义，因为律法本是叫人知罪。”
罗马书 3:20

不能行律法称义，众人不完全有罪的，律法叫人知罪不能称义。我们常边行善边犯罪，律法的总纲：“耶稣对他说：「你要尽心、尽性、尽意爱主—你的 神。”

马太福音 22:37

称义是靠信耶稣，义在律法以为已显明，就是耶稣已来，因为我们不能靠律法称义，义是给一切信者。信主就同得拯救，得救恩称义。圣灵就住在信主人心中。圣灵不离开成你得救的凭据。圣灵让我们能称神阿爸义。所有都犯罪。好人是好罪人。罪就是不能中靶。罪包括原罪，因耶稣，因信称义。称义，因基督的义算在我们身上。反过来就是定罪。“谁能控告 神所拣选的人呢？有神称他们为义了。谁能定他们的罪呢？有基督耶稣已经死了，而且从死里复活，现今在 神的右边，也替我们祈求。”

罗马书 8:33-34

神是创造.拯救.定罪者。上帝就是审判者。因耶稣我们白白称义，这不是廉价的东西。是昂贵的东西，很多昂贵的东西都是免费的，空气，父母爱。神同样。虽我们还没认识他祂已给了我们。让我们得救升天得救。神爱我们。称义不是靠行为。佛教有5柱。我们基督徒不需要。每人可以信。例子：十句经文进天堂。有人反对，十件善事可进，也有人反对。不能做因为病。十块钱进天堂，有一反对因为没钱。信耶稣就可以进天堂，没有人反对，每人都能进。不是廉价而是恩典。没有人进天堂只能经过耶稣。

世界混乱，二千一百万病毒。洪水泛滥，食物短缺，恐怖爆炸，世界动荡，列强对立，抗议暴动。种族关系，经济崩溃，今年不易。

耶稣是人唯一的希望。传这福音，我们都欠了福音的债。我们欠债的感觉用在传福音上。尽力偿还福音的债。这个时候最好的机会，把福音给人们。

justification by faith in Jesus

Pastor Huang

Romans 3:20-26

Focus

We can't be justified by the work of law or charity, none is perfect, all sinned. If we broke one law, we count as sin, guilty for all. Through the law comes the knowledge of sin, by obeying the law alone, we cannot be justified.

To summarize, the law is to love god with all you minds heart

Mat22:37-40

Galatians 6:2

Because of faith, all can be counted as righteousness

According to the scriptures, the righteousness is revealed through law

Even the laws have been given for thousands of years

Because we fell to follow the laws, god gave his only son Jesus

True for all humanity, no different in Jews or gentiles, faith in Jesus, HS indwelling in you is the key, HS never leaves us after indwelling, therefore we can call lord abba father

A nice person is a nice sinner

A saint is a saint sinner
ALL sinned



Sin is not hit the target

The original sin

The sinful thought

All fall short of the glory of god

Praise the lord, we are justified by faith, the unique aspect of Christianity

By believing, we can count as righteous, an instantaneous legal act

The opposition of righteousness is condemnation

Romans 8:33-34 none is able to charge God's chosen ones

Our lord Jesus is the creator, the redeemer and the final judge

Justified freely by his grace

But not a cheap salvation!

Quite the opposite, invaluable

Air is invaluable, god gives us free

Love of parents

Love of lord to all who believe,

all priceless

Jesus sent on the cross before we know him

God's salvation plan: Jesus paid the price for our sins, three days later the resurrection, what a grace of God!

Other pagan believes, saved by deeds, very different from Christianity believe, only Christianity justified by faith

Example: Head of the Angels, standing at the entrance to heaven, say recite 10 verses of the Bible as requirements to enter heaven etc

Grace and mercy of God, He made the entrance to Heaven a way for EVERYONE, no matter your wealth, physical condition, etc

We are in the pandemic time

21.46m 771k death in the world

5.37m, 169k death in US

Worldly catastrophes:

flood in China

Leak of the three gorge dam

Food shortage

Terrorism: explosions

Protests & violence

North Korea, Hongkong

China-India border

Racism

Political turmoil

Economic collapse etc etc

Crisis globally

Future uncertainty

Jesus is our only hope, like what the hymn say Jesus is the hope in the past, at present and in the future

Let spread the gospel to all who need to hear

We are in debt to god, to share His good news

To repay him, immediately, pay in all

Develop the sense to spread the gospel, we are in the best time to share the new news with the world, the needy