

## **BC-Art.23-Legal & Spiritual Results of Christ's Satisfying God's Justice**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The last time we examined Art. 22 you learned **how to get what Jesus has**: You learned that **salvation comes to you through faith**. And faith, you learned, was the sure hands with which you received the grace of God. **You were saved, not by faith, but by grace which came through faith**. Faith is a receiver.

Today we will go one step further and examine the **result of receiving what God gave you through faith**.

Our headings are:

**What is Justification (称义)**

**What are the Results of Justification**

Our goals are: That you **recognize that you have been made permanently and perfectly clean by Christ, and declared to be so**, and that **you will then display the awesome results of Christ's work in your life**.

### **What is Justification?**

We believe that our salvation consists in **the remission of our sins for Jesus Christ's sake**, and that therein **our righteousness before God is implied**; as David and Paul teach us, **declaring this** to be the blessedness of man that **God imputes righteousness to him apart from works**. And the same apostle says that we are **justified freely by his grace**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

我们相信我们的得救包括因基督的缘故罪得赦免，在神面前得称为义；正如大卫与保罗教导我们的，在神面前不凭行为被算为义的人是有福的 1。保罗又说：“蒙神的恩典，因信基督耶稣的救赎，就白白的称义 2。” Translated by Rev. Charles Chao D.D.

**1. What is justification? The word justification comes from two Latin words: “make” and “just.”** Literally it means: making just. But God doesn't make you just. You still have sins every day. **He simply declares you to be just**. Theologically, the term justification means **“God declaring a sinner to be innocent of all sins.”** You are declared righteous (justified) by God **when you receive the saving merits of Jesus Christ through faith**.

**2. Jesus caused your justification by doing what you should have done – obeyed God's law perfectly.** This is called the **active obedience of Christ**. In all his life, even from his youth, he fully obeyed God's law. Adam was bound to obey God's law, but failed, so being a child of Adam you too failed. **If Adam had passed the test God put him through and perfectly obeyed God, then you would have been confirmed as perfectly holy forever** and would not have sinned. He failed miserably. But not your 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam!

**3. Jesus caused your justification by taking the punishment for the sins that you did.** This is called the **passive obedience of Christ**. This is what Adam deserved. This was what you deserved. But he took your place.

2 Corinthians 5:18,19,21 - Now all things are of God, **who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 21 **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

**4. Jesus prays for your justification. And whatever he asks for, he gets. He is the truly beloved Son of his Father.** So you can have confidence! He is not some pauper... He is not some Son who is tolerated by his Father. And this one is your Lord!

John 17:20 -"I do not pray for these alone, but **also for those who will believe in Me through their word**;

### **What are the Results of Justification?**

And therefore we always hold fast this foundation, **ascribing all the glory to God**, humbling ourselves before Him, and acknowledging ourselves to be such as we really are, without presuming to trust in anything in ourselves, or in any merit of ours, relying and resting upon the obedience of Christ crucified alone, which becomes ours when we believe in Him. This is sufficient to **cover all our iniquities**, and to **give us confidence in approaching to God; freeing the conscience of fear, terror, and dread**, without following the example of our first

father, Adam, who, trembling, attempted to cover himself with fig-leaves. And, verily, if we should appear before God, relying on ourselves or on any other creature, though ever so little, we should, alas! be consumed. And therefore every one must pray with David: O Jehovah, enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight no man living is righteous.

因此我们总是坚持这个根基，将一切的荣耀归给神<sup>3</sup>，在他面前谦卑，承认我们自己是什么样的人，自己毫无可夸，没有任何功德<sup>4</sup>，只有依赖并信基督的顺服为我们死在十字架上<sup>5</sup>；当我们信靠他的时候，他的义就成为我们的义<sup>6</sup>。这足以遮盖我们一切罪孽，叫我们有信心来到神面前<sup>7</sup>，解除了良心上的恐惧、威胁与惧怕，如果我们要靠自己，或其他任何受造之物来到神面前，我们就灭亡了<sup>8</sup>。因此，每个人都当不再效法始祖亚当的恐惧，想用无花果树的叶子来遮掩自己<sup>9</sup>。像大卫一样祈祷：“求祢不要审问仆人，因为在祢面前凡活着的人，没有一个是义的<sup>10</sup>。”（Translated by Rev. Charles Chao D.D.）

**1. Justification gives you peace with God.** This was a permanent peace. You can have confidence in this. He does not break his treaty.

**Romans 5:1** - Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Why is this so important? Because if you did not have peace with God, his eternal judgment would still be on your head. But God's condemnation is not on your head anymore. This peace that Christ secured for you with God is illustrated in Zechariah 3.

**Zechariah 3:1-5** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! **The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!** Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" 3 **Now Joshua was clothed with filthy (污秽的) garments,** and was standing **before the Angel.** 4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "**See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.**" 5 And I said, "**Let them put a clean turban (冠冕) on his head.**" So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

The four persons are: God the Father, Joshua is the man, Angel of the Lord is Jesus Christ, and Satan, the accuser (控告者). The picture then is that of the Devil standing as constant accuser, accusing Joshua of being dirty. But Joshua's dirty clothes were removed and new clothes were given him. Jehovah simply made a declaration...ignoring the Devil's claims. (Isn't that exciting?) **And Jesus was there, for he was the means by which Joshua was made clean.** It is like God used "white-out" correction fluid (涂改液) to cover over your errors. And when God declares peace between you and him, **he then allows you to enter into his presence.** At the end of the world there will be Great Supper in heaven. You will sit with Jesus and enjoy this fellowship.

**Revelation 19:9** Then he said to me, "Write: **'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'**" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

**2. Justification gives you confidence and eternal security now in this world.** Justification is permanent. You don't have to worry like the Romanist who says you are justified more and more throughout your life. No! Justification is a one-time declaration (宣告) that your sins of the past, present, and future have been paid for by Christ by his active and passive obedience. You are free. You don't have to worry like the Arminianist (阿民念主义者) – like Pentecostals (灵恩派) - who teach that justification was only the remissions of the sins of your past.

**Psalms 32:1** - **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,** Whose sin is covered.

**You have a clear conscience.** God declares you to be blessed. Nothing that is holy can become unclean when with was set apart by Jesus.

**3. Justification causes you to pray without fear. Surely there is no prayer without sacrifice. But you do have a sacrifice.** You don't have to run and hide like Adam did when he sinned against God. God does not keep a record of sins (Psalm 130) otherwise...who could stand.

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**4. Justification gives you comfort.** Christ is your eternal defender (辩护者) and advocate (代言人). This is

present in this life. Even if enemies come against you, you will not have to worry. Even if you fall away from serving the Lord for a time, you don't have to panic.

Hebrews 13:6 So we may boldly say: "**The LORD is my helper; I will not fear.** What can man do to me?"

**5. Justification causes you to glorify and worship God.** In the past, no priest could enter into God's presence without sacrifices being made for him, and neither could you enter into God's presence without sacrifice.

Psalm 115:1 **Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.**

**6. Justification makes you humble** (谦卑的). You and your father Adam had a desire to be autonomous— independent of God. When God helps you to see how hopeless your condition was... and when you see how God sent a holy Christ to take his place, it humbles you.

Psalm 130:5-8 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

Humility makes you worship God better.

**7. Justification makes you able to do things for God. If you are not justified through faith, then nothing you do is acceptable to God. You can gain no merit without faith.** So all religions

are not the same. Only Christianity speaks of justification. Only the Christian can be saved.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

**8. Justification causes you to be able to feed on Christ.** He is the vine and you are the branches.

Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

### **Conclusion:**

As a result of receiving by faith the active and passive obedience of Jesus, you are declared justified. What are the results of your justification before the Father? You are now made right with him – permanently - irrevocably (不可撤销地). You then have permanent peace with the Father.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Let your justification be a source of comfort to you.
2. Let it, it gives you confidence and eternal security.
3. Let it make you approach God in prayer and worship.
4. Let it make you humble.
5. Let it motivate you to work hard for him.
6. Let it make you daily feed on Christ to strengthen your soul.
7. Let it make you rejoice.
8. Let it make you share him.

The blessing of God's salvation is rich, full, and free and your share is never diminished if you share it.

If you are not a Christian, you are still in your sins, and you will face the full judgment of God for them. You will have to spend eternity in hell. But you still have time to be saved from that judgment. Some who went to bed last night did not wake up today... and they will never have this opportunity. But you have this opportunity. Don't squander (浪费) this opportunity. Call to God for help. Ask him to justify you because of Jesus.