

## Session 3 ...Faith Assured by Justification

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Hebrew's Presentation of the "Faith Factor"

**Heb 12:1-2** ... The IMPACT of the Hebrews' Faith Factor Upon Our Lives

- **"THEREFORE"** ... As a result of what's been presented – [Enter the IMPERATIVES]
  - Lay Aside Weights & Sins ... (Escape the JELLO)
  - Run the Race with Endurance ... (Not Just for a Moment but On-going)
  
- **What's Been Presented?** ...[**WARNING:** You Will NOT be able to Run with Endurance the Race of Faith without being Strongly Influenced by these!!]
  - **A Cloud of Witnesses** ... Faith has been tried and tested by others and their witness is a source of Inspiration for our race -- Are You HEARING from These?
  - **Jesus Christ** – *"the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God"*

What Shall We Consider of Christ?

- **He is the Author & Perfecter of Our Faith** ... Faith Originates from Him as a GIFT; Faith is being Matured & Completed  
**'perfecter'** (Gk. teliothes) = *one who makes possible the successful completion of something - 'one who completes, perfecter.'* (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)
- **He has endured to the end**
- **He has accomplished the cross and is now SEATED at the right hand of God**  
**... What's the Significance of this?** – It is the BASIS for our Constant Posture of Confidence & Assurance! ... It is what RE-ORIENTS My Faith when I get upside-down & sideways!!

### What Does a "Seated Christ" Mean for Us?

**Heb 9:24-28**

**Heb 10:1-4** ... Another Means of Seeking Acceptance & Nearness to God

- **v. 1** ...Using the Rituals of the Law as a MEANS rather than a SIGN
  - When Man Seeks to Make HIS CONTRIBUTION the MEANS of Gaining Acceptance with God.

NOTE that Man typically uses something from God when he does this – (Could be Bible Reading ... Prayer ... Tithing ... Avoiding Sin... Avoiding Laziness)

- v. 2-3 ... The Unexpected Result of This Approach ---- A Focus & Awareness of OUR SIN!

### Heb 10:11-14 ... Posture Matters!

- v. 11 ... Priests that STAND DAILY ... Offering Repeatedly
  - o NOTE: The Emphasis here is on What's NOT FINISHED and Still in Need of Work & Effort
  - o NOTE: This activity can NEVER take away sins!  
...Whatever we're doing to try and get rid of Condemnation for our failures and GAIN a sense of acceptance with God – WON'T WORK!!
- v. 12-14 ... By Contrast ... Christ SAT DOWN
  - o **Why Does He Sit Down?** ...Because what He's done was sufficient and He's Finished! What the Father Demanded has been Met and He's No Longer Looking for any further contribution!

### Heb 10:19-23 ... The Impact of a Seated Christ!

***A Seated Christ Means: "Assurance" ... "Confidence" ... "Access" ... "Nearness" ... "Forgiveness" ... "No Penalization" ... "No Hostility" ... "Hope of God's Favor"***

***...A Seated Christ Means JUSTIFICATION!***

*"Martin Luther described the doctrine of justification by faith as 'articulus stantis vel cadentis ecclesiae' –the article of faith that decides whether the church is standing or falling. By this he meant that when this doctrine is understood, believed, and preached, as it was in New Testament times, the church stands in the grace of God and is alive; but where it is neglected, overlaid, or denied, as it was in medieval Catholicism, the church falls from grace and its life drains away, leaving it in a state of darkness and death." J.I. Packer, "Celebrating the Saving Work of God", p. 137*

### Justification & Personal Revival ...

*"...justification by faith has been the central theme of the preaching in every movement of revival and religious awakening within Protestantism from the Reformation to the present day. The essential thing that happens in every true revival is that the Holy Spirit teaches the church afresh the reality of justification by faith, both as a truth and as a living experience." J.I. Packer, "Celebrating the Saving Work of God", p. 137*

- **"Let us draw near with full assurance"** ... this is the fruit of justification (acceptance based in the finished work of Christ). When justification is functioning properly in our lives, it launches us toward God with confidence—not a confidence that we have done something sufficient to gain our entrance into the court of the king, but confidence that Christ has done something sufficient and He has transferred that accomplishment to my account, so that I come boldly because of my respect for the worth & value & acceptableness of the person and work of Christ!

*"The doctrine of justification by faith is like Atlas: it bears a world on its shoulders, the entire evangelical knowledge of saving grace. ...Their adoption as God's sons is consequent on their justification; indeed, it is no more than the positive aspect of God's justifying sentence. Their practice of prayer, of daily repentance, and of good works—their whole life of faith—springs from the knowledge of God's justifying grace. ...when justification falls, all true knowledge of the grace of God in human life falls with it" J.I. Packer, "Celebrating the Saving Work of God", p. 138*

### **The Doctrine of Justification by Faith ...the Factor of Faith that makes you either RIGHT with God or REJECTED by God.**

- ...It is foundational to how you approach the Christian Life
- ...It is the basis for how you raise your children in the category of religion
- ...It is the dictionary that defines how you see people's spiritual condition

### Doctrine of Justification by Faith:

*"Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight." Wayne Grudem, "Systematic Theology", p. 723*

*"...something decisive and once-for-all happens at justification. ...in Romans 5:1, Paul says, 'Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' In other words, something decisive happened that resulted in peace with God." John Piper, "The Future of Justification", p. 42*

*"[Justification] is something bigger—God's creative act whereby, through divine determination, the believer has done everything that God requires." Simon Gathercole quoted in "The Future of Justification", p. 43*

**J.I. Packer:** *"their whole life of faith—springs from the knowledge of God's justifying grace... when justification falls, all true knowledge of the grace of God in human life falls with it"*

***For many of us, the issue is not how we see this doctrine, but rather whether or not we stare at it enough!***

**Heb 10:35-39** ...How We Got to the "Faith Factor" in Heb 12:1-2

***Have You Noticed a Great Difference Between Last Night's Message (focused on our obedience) and Today's Message (focused on the seated Christ)?***

- One is a work in progress with a lot of room for improvement. The other is a finished work with no room for improvement.
- ...One is called "Sanctification" the other is called "Justification"

## **Twinking Out the Tension between Justification & Sanctification**

**Heb 10:14**

...Sanctification is dealing with a certain type of person—a justified person, a righteous person, an accepted person, a new creation who is a child of God, an heir with Christ. There is no "sanctification" of those who are not justified!

...Sanctification is concerned with clarifying the image of God as seen in a believer, it is about increasing the fruit being born by the Spirit, it is about maturity & growth, it is about progress.

*"Regeneration is an act of God in us; justification is a judgment of God with respect to us. The distinction is like that of the distinction between the act of a surgeon and the act of a judge. The surgeon, when he removes an inward cancer, does something in us. That is not what a judge does—he gives a verdict regarding our judicial status. If we are innocent he declares accordingly.*

*The purity of the gospel is bound up with the recognition of this distinction. If justification is confused with regeneration or sanctification, then the door is opened for the perversion of the gospel at its center." John Murray, "Redemption Accomplished and Applied", p. 121*

### Helpful Distinctions and Clarifications about Justification & Sanctification

- Justification has already (past tense) received what is done. Sanctification is still reaching for its prize (Conformity to the image of Christ).
- The posture of justification is seated. The posture of sanctification is striving. (note the action words that the bible associates with our lives)
- Sanctification 'borrows' from justification, but justification doesn't borrow from sanctification. (we don't add to some kind of lack in justification—for there is none—by borrowing from our righteous actions)
- Justification finds its home address in Christ. Sanctification finds its address in us. If you want to understand the "condition" of your justification, we look in Christ. If we want to understand the condition of our sanctification, we look in us.
- Justification is a line that we cross; Sanctification is a line we walk along.

*Consulting Our Great Cloud of Witnesses*

**Abraham on Justification ...**

James 2:20-23

Rom 4:1-11

*Faith Assured by Justification became the Basis for a Life of Obedient Faith  
and Radical Trust*