

Redemption Accomplished and Applied  
WEEK 8  
Justification

I. Review: The Big Picture

- A. Analogy of construction and the Ordo Salutis
- B. The “financing” is infinite and comprehensive
- C. The construction is also comprehensive
- D. All construction is ordered, must be ordered
- E. The order of construction is the *ordo salutis*

II. Justification: a series of questions

- A. What does “justify” mean?
  - 1. Deut 25:1
  - 2. Prov 17:15
  - 3. Law, violation or obedience, evaluation and consequence
  - 4. WSC 14: sin is any transgression of or failure to conform to the law of God
- B. How are to understand the “law”?
  - 1. Law vs relationship? OR Law and relationship? Romans 7:12ff
- C. So what does it mean that God justifies law breakers?

**WSC Q. 33.** *What is justification?* **A.** Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

- 1. Full forgiveness
  - 2. Full righteousness and acceptance
  - 3. The active and passive obedience of Christ
  - 4. Nothing done by us or in us
- D. Why is the doctrine of justification by faith alone a problem?
  - 1. Contradiction of Romans 4:4-5 and Ex 34:6-7?

- E. How is this apparent contradiction resolved?
1. The work of Christ. Romans 3:21-26, Gal 3:13
  2. The disposition of God in his goodness. Romans 5:8, grace
  3. The complete absence of any contribution on our part. Romans 3:19-20; Gal 2:16, 2:21.
- F. Why is this the foundational doctrine for the church?
1. Our acceptance with God is either certain or uncertain
- G. How is this a cherished teaching?
1. Good news for sinners
  2. Bad news for the self-righteous
  3. The basis for unity across all human distinctions

60 Q. How are you righteous before God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

Even though my conscience accuses me  
of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments,  
of never having kept any of them,  
and of still being inclined toward all evil,  
nevertheless,  
without any merit of my own,  
out of sheer grace,  
God grants and credits to me  
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ,  
as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner,  
and as if I had been as perfectly obedient  
as Christ was obedient for me.  
All I need to do  
is accept this gift with a believing heart.