

Romans 5:6 to 14 Tony Hewson

Paul is continuing to emphasize that justification is by faith alone – not by anything we have done or can do.

The constant error we fall into is that somehow we can merit God's favour or lose his favour by our actions or attitudes.

Justification is a forensic or legal term.

God declares us righteous – without fault – not guilty of any sin.

We cannot earn this declaration by anything we do Justification comes when we believe what God says – that Jesus was delivered up for our sin though he was completely sinless, and rose again from the death showing that God had accepted his death for us and his righteous life, lived on our behalf.

Verse 6 Christ did not die for us when we were godly – seeking to please God and walking in obedience, but the opposite, not merely irreligious but deliberately acting in violation of his laws and morally incapable of pleasing him (without strength).

We had neither the will nor the ability to bring forth the fruit of righteousness that he demands.

Verse 7 Contrasts our attitude to the attitude of God.

We would find it very hard to give our life to save the life of a righteous person and Paul is not here meaning the act of trying to rescue such a person from danger which cost us our life, for every day men and women die while trying to save others.

This is deliberately giving our life up to save theirs, being put to death instead of them.

Someone might dare to do that for a very good person but never for a wicked person such as Hitler or Stalin or Saddam Hussan.

Verse 8 But God (praise Him that He is not like us), shows his love towards us in that Christ gave his life for us when we were still sinners.

Verse 9 If that is the case, that God loved us when we were rebels and justified us – declared us to be righteous by the blood, that is the death of Christ – we can rest in the certainty that Christ will save us from His wrath.

Verse 10 Paul is at great pains to show us the certainty of our salvation in Christ – this whole passage is to give us assurance of our forgiveness and full salvation.

We were enemies – remember we were at war with him and had no peace It was while we were enemies that God moved towards us in reconciliation.

He made peace, not us, by giving Christ to die for us.

Surely say Paul – if we are now now reconciled by Christ's death we will be saved by his life.

He is going to go on and explain in the rest of this chapter and in the next 3 chapters how Christ's life has saved us, is saving us and will save us.

Verse 11 Not only are we assured of this reconciliation, this peace with God but it causes us to joy or boast or rejoice, to exult in God because we through Christ we are restored to his favour.

Do you do that?

Now from verse 12 Paul begins to explain how this justification is actually achieved and contrasts the actions of Adam the first man with the actions of Jesus Christ the last Adam and second man – see 1 Corinthians 15.

In these verses Paul begins a historical argument. His whole reasoning and explanation is based on a literal interpretation of Genesis. There was a real man called Adam whose actions brought sin into the world and death as the punishment of sin. If Adam was only symbolic and part of a Creation myth the whole of Paul's argument collapses.

That is why the compromise with long ages and the reinterpretation of Genesis has devastated the witness of the church and the gospel in 'western society'.

Verse 12 He begins by stating that by one man sin entered the world Sin is not a natural thing, it was not part of God's creation. It 'came in'

The bible never speaks of sin as just a negative thin, a lack of certain qualities but describes it as a dynamic active principle. Sin does things, it enters in, it reigns, rules, governs. It seeks to control us and demands our obedience. (see Romans 6) The Fall Adam was innocent, upright, capable of obeying God but through him a new reigning principle has come into the life of man. We are now fallen, depraved, guilty and all our habits and practices are governed by this reigning principle.

That is what is wrong with the world, that is the cause of all of the problems – Sin came in There will be a time yet future when sin is banished again from the world and it will be restored to its sinless state but if evil has always been part of the created order then all of the promises such a restoration are meaningless The consequence of the entry of sin was death, death came in by sin.

If you are new or visiting; *a special warm welcome to you.*
We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

Today

Speaker Tony Hewson

- JCF 5.00pm

Next Sunday

Tom McIver
19th April. Steve Kumar.
26th April. John DeJong

Thursday Kidz Club

6:30 - 8:00 pm
7 - 12 year olds
Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

Planning Meeting - April 6th. Please see the elders if you wish to have an agenda item added.

Coming Up

Combined Dunedin Churches

Resurrection service will be held on the 19th April. A prayer meeting for this event will be held on Thursday 19th April at 8.00pm at St Matthew (Hope Street) and walk to Unity Park (Eglington Road) 9.30pm, and then through the night at St Matthew from 11.00pm to 8.00am Good Friday. Following the Lord Jesus, (Luke 6:12) you are invited to join in prayer. Come for one hour or the whole night. Coffee will be provided.

Contact bruce@dcbc.co.nz for further information.

Felix and Eveness Muchimba from Zambia will be visiting Dunedin for one night only on Wednesday, 15th April at 7.30pm at Queens Drive Gospel Hall. The Muchimbas have been in full time Christian ministry at GLO in Zambia since 1990.

