

Grace: God's Riches at Christ's Expense

Justification is by grace alone. Believers are "justified freely by his *grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). Grace is an unmerited favour: the believer is not acquitted because he is deserving, but simply because God wants to be good to him.

That is not to say that God justifies capriciously. God is able to set us free from guilt and punishment because of what Jesus did on the cross. "Justified...through the *redemption* that is in Christ Jesus." Jesus liberates his people from the condemnation of the law, having purchased their freedom with His own blood.

Thus, justification is 'freely' given to the believer because someone else has paid the price. Truly, GRACE is God's Riches At Christ' Expense!

Grace is not God's recompense for the Christian's good works. Otherwise, grace is not longer grace. See how the Scriptures sets grace in contrast to our works:

- Now to him that *worketh* is the reward not reckoned of *grace*, but of debt (Romans 4:4,5).
- And if by *grace*, then is it no more of *works*: otherwise grace is no more grace. (Romans 11:6).
- For by *grace* are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of *works*, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8,9).
- Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our *works*, but according to his own purpose and *grace*, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (2 Timothy 1:9).

Superficially, Roman Catholicism also teaches that justification comes from the grace of God. Sadly, what Rome gives with one hand, it takes away with the other. For grace is conceived as *God's help to perform good works*, which ultimately merit eternal life.

"Life eternal is to be proposed to those working well unto the end, and hoping in God, both as a *grace* mercifully promised to the sons of God through Jesus Christ, and as a *reward* which is according to the promise of God Himself, to be faithfully rendered to their good works and merits" (Trent 6;16).

Grace or reward? It is either grace or works. You cannot have the cake and eat it too. "To him that *worketh* is the reward not reckoned of *grace*."

Are you justified by the grace of God? If you're relying on your good works, as Roman Catholicism teaches, then you are still a stranger to grace. I plead with you: do not let religion blind you to the meaning, and indeed, the experience of grace. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him. Come to the throne of grace, empty handed, without any claims, without any merits. Ask God to spare you the punishment you deserve; ask Him to give you the freedom and life you don't merit. He will save you because of Jesus, His Son. He will justify you freely, because God is gracious!