

Justified by His Blood

It is an elementary principle of justice that law-breakers should be condemned while the righteous should be set free. God underlines this principle by instructing judges to 'justify the righteous and condemn the wicked' (Deuteronomy 25:1).

How then can we explain Romans 5:9, and in particular the statement, 'justified by his blood'?

'Much more then, having now been *justified by His blood*, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.'

The 'justified' are believers in Jesus Christ, but as we all know, Christians are not innocent or sinless. They too have broken the Law of God. The most saintly must confess with the rest of God's people, 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us' (1 John 1:8). Though believers are sinners, yet God says that they are justified - God declares them just, not guilty and sets them free from every penalty. Shouldn't they be condemned and punished instead?

Moreover, 'His blood' refers to the Son of God who was crucified on the cross. Now Jesus is immaculate, sinless, innocent, just, the Holy One of God. Why should *he* shed his blood and die? Jesus should have been justified; he should have never been put to death.

What's more amazing is that Christ's death was not an accident, a murder or an injustice. The Bible says that 'it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.' Jesus was 'delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.' God planned his Son's death from eternity, and sent him to the world for that very purpose.

Why then did the Righteous die? What sins was he carrying on his shoulders? His own? No, for he was without sin. Whose sins, then?

I hope and pray that God will give you wisdom to understand that Jesus died in place of others. Being sinners, believers deserve condemnation but God does not give them the death penalty they warrant. Instead, God transfers their sins onto his Son, and he is condemned and castigated instead of them. God is thereby able to declare this about them: JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD. Freed, because somebody else was punished in their place.

What do you see when you Look back at the dying Man on the cross. Do you see your substitute dying for *your* sins? Can you honestly repeat the blessed words, "I am justified by his blood"? Let your faith rest in Jesus alone, who died to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, who is now alive forevermore to secure the salvation of his people.