

Just and Justifier

God cannot save a single soul apart from the death of His Son. While it is true that all things are possible with God, yet it is equally true that the all-powerful God cannot deny Himself and act unjustly. He must remain righteous and holy while exercising his mercy towards sinners.

Consider Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before He suffered. The hour had come to fulfil His mission, “to save his people from their sins.” As He anticipated the cross, being in great agony, Jesus cried out, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me.” Undoubtedly, God would have removed the cup if He could. But alas, it was not possible. The Lamb of God had to be slain. Jesus had to take the cup of God’s wrath and drink it.

Now, of course, God was under no obligation to save anyone. He could have been just and condemned the rebellious human race to an eternity in Hell, as He did with Satan and the fallen angels. Our tears, sufferings, pain, sorrows, penances and hell itself could never expiate our sins. Divine justice demands eternal punishment. If God gave us what we deserve, Hell, there would have been no need for Jesus to die.

Praise God, He chose to show mercy and grace, to spare His people the penalty they deserved, and grant them the life they do not merit. God kindly justifies His own, declaring and accounting them as just before Him. But how could he justify the ungodly and still be a righteous and just God?

The apostle Paul explains that believers are justified “through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24). God frees them from condemnation because Jesus bought their liberty with his own blood. Jesus took away their guilt, and suffered and died on the cross in their place. The cross of Calvary is the eternal proof of the justice of God in the salvation of sinners:

“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be *just*, and the *justifier* of him which believeth in Jesus” (Romans 3:26).

God is both just and the justifier: **just** because sin has been punished in Christ; **justifier** because through Christ, God frees the believer from his guilt and punishment.

You can be sure that God will deal justly with you. If you stand alone before him, His righteous sentence would be your eternal ruin. If you’re united with Christ by faith, God already declares you righteous for Christ’s sake. Reader, are you justified?