

The Security of Justification

Part 2

Romans 5:1-5

Justification by faith is proved sufficient by the eternal gifts that it secures.

LTS: Psalm 103

Introduction:

Before we get started with the sermon this morning, the elders have asked me to speak with you about a geo-political concern that I believe is so important to the faithful church at large that it warrants this kind of intrusion into our normal regular agenda.

I. War With God

As many of you know, the world's hatred for God is coming into clearer, and clearer focus in recent days, especially in Alberta Canada. We have recently learned that

Bill C-4 passed through the House and the Senate without opposition. Not a single dissenting vote was cast by any member of the conservative party.

It received Royal Assent on December 8, which means it will come into Law after January 8, 2022.

What this means is that, According to Canadian law, as of January 8, 2022, the belief in God's design for marriage and sexuality will now be officially seen as a myth. It also imposes a strict ban on what they call "Conversion Therapy."

- The Bill defines conversion therapy as, "a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual;
- change a person's gender identity to cisgender;
- change a person's gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth;
- repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior;
- repress a person's non-cisgender gender identity; or repress or reduce a person's gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth."

This definition is intentionally broad, and it can clearly be used against any preacher or elder who either speaks against homosexuality / transgenderism or who counsels a person to obey Christ and abandon their homosexual / transgender actions and lifestyle.

This means as of January 8, 2022, it will be against the law to preach, teach, or counsel regarding God's design for marriage and sexuality.

The law says, "Everyone who knowingly causes another person to undergo conversion therapy – including... providing conversion therapy to that other person – is guilty of an indictable offense and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years." Similarly, "Everyone who knowingly promotes or advertises conversion therapy is guilty of an indictable offense and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years."

On January 16, 2022, 9 That's today) faithful men across Canada (and many in the United States as well) will be preaching on God's design for marriage and a biblical ethic of sexuality. They will be doing so illegally, declaring to the State that there is one God and one Lord over His church, and that Christ alone gets to both define marriage and dictate what is required in the pulpit.

This morning, many faithful American ministers of the word are preaching messages on biblical sexuality in defiance of the Canadian government's new law. My purpose this morning is to declare that we stand with those faithful brothers. The only reason I am not preaching such a sermon this morning is because we have already taught on this subject when we studied Romans chapter 1. Furthermore, in 2017 we amended our official bylaws to reflect a biblical position on gender and sexuality. We hope that Our united stand will put the Canadian and the U.S. governments on notice that they have attacked, not the traditions of men but the very Word of God.

We are all well-aware of the evil power and destructive influence of the homosexual and transgender ideology. Our government is bent on not only normalizing this perversion, but also legalizing it, and criminalizing opposition to it.

It is also important to understand that this is not a phenomenon taking place only in Canada.

In 2012, California passed Senate Bill 1172 banning "gay conversion" (alongside New York, New Jersey, and Nevada). In doing this, the California government sought to prohibit any correction of an unbiblical view of sexual identity, because (and I quote) "California has a compelling interest in protecting the...wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals (end quote)"

Furthermore, on August 18, 2020, the Democratic Party [in the United States] declared at the National Convention that it would "ban harmful conversion therapy practices." The Obama administration appointed more than 250 LGBTQ+ people to serve in the government. The Biden administration has promised to increase that number, and they have done so thus far.

As aggressive as this political priority is to make perversion safe from criticism in the United States, Canada is even further ahead.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, Paul clearly articulates why we must speak the truth:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

You see, All sinners need conversion (including you and me), but this biblical list focuses specifically on “the sexually immoral . . . adulterers . . . effeminate . . . [and] homosexuals,” who will not “inherit the kingdom of God.” Our calling as gospel ministers is to preach the truth in love, confront sin, and call all men everywhere to repent and obey the gospel—the good news that achieves soul conversion and saves sinners from eternal wrath.

We believe that divine love and sovereign grace compel us to be faithful to proclaim the radical transformation the Gospel offers at any cost.

This world system and its human governments will gladly send people to hell, but our calling is to rescue people with the truth.

2 Timothy 2:24–26

And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

As I was preparing these remarks, I learned that Great Britain also has a similar bill waiting to get signed into law. Moreover, The City Counsel of Lafayette, IN (where a number of us at Calvary have received Biblical Counseling training, has for the last two years made attempts to pass a similar law.

As a church that offers biblical counseling without charge to anyone and everyone who seeks it, Calvary Bible Church has good reason to be concerned. We are living in a time that will require much courage and much prayer.

Prayer. 2 Elders

II. Peace with God:

Our sermon for this morning picks up where we left off in Romans chapter 5. Last week I said that the question Paul seems to be answering for the believers in Rome is this: How can we

be sure that justification by faith is enough? How can we know that justification is sufficient to bring us all the way home? How can we be certain that we have NO need to fear God's wrath and judgment? These are questions about the believer's security. How can I know that I will never lose my salvation? That's a great question, and Paul's answer should be a huge encouragement to anyone who has struggled with their assurance.

Last time I mentioned that Paul's answer to this question has several parts. Explaining these precious truths one after another, is like dropping great anchors designed to stabilize and preserve the ship of faith. And each one of these anchors comes to us as the overflow of our justification guaranteeing that our salvation is absolutely secure. You may remember that the first of these anchors was...

1. Peace with God.

1. We invested significant time last week so, I won't belabor the point. But perhaps I can summarize by saying that the Scriptures are clear in their declaration that all sinners come into the world at enmity with God. Every man and woman in the world has a natural propensity toward resisting God. By nature, sinners are at war with God.

2. But when a sinner repents of their sin and hangs all of his/her hope for salvation on the finished work of Christ on the cross, believing that He alone can save, God declares them righteous. He pronounces them "not guilty," and "Justified by grace, through faith, because of Christ

3. The result of that legal declaration is that the sinner now is granted Peace with God. In that moment, the God who was previously your enemy and judge, now becomes your Heavenly Father – not by works, but as a gracious, un retractable Gift.

4. So the first anchor of truth that assures the security of the believer is "Peace with God." The Second anchor we receive as the overflow of our justification is...

II. Access to God

Read v. 2

Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand...

1. The word "also" points to the second Anchor that comes from the overflow of justification. Since we have been justified by faith, we receive not only Peace with God, but also

Access to God.

2. “Access” here might be better rendered “introduction.” The word “Introduction” conveys the idea of one who secures for his friend an audience with a king, bringing him, properly attired, into his presence and favor.¹

3. Having been clothed in righteousness through justification, the believer is immediately brought, as it were, into the private chambers of the King where he is formally introduced to his new Father – God Himself.

4. In fact, Christ our Mediator is the One who makes the introduction. This is not something we can do on our own. We have to be brought into the presence of God by another; namely, the Son of God whose personal sacrifice forged this new relationship with God.

Illustration of touring the Whitehouse.

5. In the very moment you are justified, you are granted the privilege of permanent access to the Father – the King. The word obtained (v. 2) is a verb that indicates on-going results from a previous action. In other words, now that Jesus has formally inducted you into the King’s family, the door to his private chamber is open to you forever!

6. This new relationship with God beautifully illustrates what Jesus had in mind in the sermon on the Mt: (Mat. 7:7–8) when to his disciples he said,

“Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ For everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds,
and to the one who knocks it will be opened to him.

7. Beloved, this is a picture of the unhindered approachability of your heavenly Father.

8. Once again, for those who are familiar with the O.T. Scriptures, this is a radical change in a person’s relationship with God. In one sense the O.T. is a narrative of separation from God.

9. You will remember from all the way back Genesis 3 that the result of Adam’s sin was that the man and His wife were ejected from the presence of the Lord and in the Garden of Eden never to return.

10. Throughout the history of Israel, the status of God’s relationship to man could be summed up in one word; “Inaccessible.” God was inaccessible and unapproachable to virtually EVERYONE!. The only exceptions to that where a very few special men through whom God spoke. Men like Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha and other prophets. But if you were NOT a prophet of the Lord, the presence of God was off limits.

¹ Kenneth S. Wuest, [*Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*](#), vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 77–78.

11. This is vividly displayed in Ex. 19 where after Israel escapes from Egypt and gathers in Arabia around Mt. Sinai, God appeared with thunder and lightning and fire. He tells Moses that He intends to come down to the mountain so the people can hear God speak to Moses. But God said (12) “you shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

12. In v. 21 God tells Moses to “warn the people so that they do not break through to the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish.” Not even the consecrated priests were allowed to approach the presence of God. To them He was unapproachable and inaccessible.

13. Later on, when God had Moses build the Tabernacle (tent of meeting) there where basically two rooms. The holy place is where priests would serve every day. The second room was called the Holy of Holies where the visible presence of the Lord resided as if seated on “Mercy Seat” the Ark of the Covenant. But into that room No One could go except once per year on the day of atonement. And even then, the priest would enter very briefly, no doubt with fear and trembling.

14. Eventually, God had Solomon build a grand temple that was modeled after the tabernacle. In it was a massive curtain beyond which no man could go.

15. In Isaiah 6 the prophet Isaiah entered the temple one day and saw the Lord high and lifted up. And do you remember how Isaiah responded when he realized he was in the presence of the Lord? He fell on His face and began pronouncing curses upon himself because his eyes had seen God. Even to this great prophet, God was unapproachable.

16. In fact, the very architecture of the Temple courtyard was designed to keep people out. There was a large section of the courtyard that was available everyone including Gentiles. But they were limited under penalty of death not to get too close. The women could get a little closer. Men could get a little closer still. The priests were allowed into the first room of the Tabernacle but no further.

17. God went out of His way to remain transcendent and inaccessible. But then, on that first Christmas morning, God came near. The transcendent unapproachable God became a man. Everyone who desired to approach him was granted physical access. And on the day that He was crucified for our transgressions, the great curtain in the temple that symbolically separated man from God was torn from top to bottom.

18. In other words, the substitutionary death of Jesus for sinners made the unapproachable God accessible. And now, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is offered as an invitation to all people to repent and believe so that sinners can be justified and granted access to God... indeed, Fellowship with God.

19. Listen to how Peter describes it (1 Pet. 3:18), For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...

20. To the Ephesians Paul writes

(Eph. 2:18)

For through him [Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹

21. Again, in Eph. 3:12 we read, “in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

22. Two key phrases in the book of Hebrews are “Hold fast” and “draw near.” In Heb. 10:16 (one of the most precious verses in the N.T.) we read, Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

23. You see, beloved, the gospel of Jesus Christ makes the unapproachable God TOTALLY accessible for those who are justified. How could you ever think that God would ever judge you after paying such a price to give you access?

24. Now, I want you to notice how the author of Hebrews speaks of God’s throne. He calls it, The Throne of Grace. Perhaps this is what Paul was thinking of when he wrote Rom 5:2 where he says,

“Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.”

25. Notice that Paul says we have attained access into this Grace. Now, This is an unusual way to use the word Grace.

26. Normally, when we think about Grace, we define it as undeserved favor. In this sense GRACE is God’s act of giving salvation as a gift.

27. A second way the N.T. defines GRACE is Power to respond faithfully to trials and difficulties. In 2 Cor. 12:9 God says to Paul, “My GRACE is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

28. Here in Rom 5:1-2, however, we discover a kind of grace that we rarely think about. Paul describes it as something we have access to – something in which we stand.

29. This kind of grace is a grace in which the believer lives. Living in the household of God where there is absolute Peace with God, and where we have unhindered access to God. Its as if Paul has in mind a Palace of grace.

30. Before you were justified, you stood outside the palace. But one day you heard the gospel and believed. You repented of your sin and trusted in Christ. And on that very day, God’s Son dressed you in the robes of Christ’s righteousness, led you into the king’s private quarters and you became an official member of His forever family. And now you live in the King’s Palace – the palace of GRACE. The place in which we stand.

31. Paul wants us to know that we who were universally condemned by God’s law now live in the arms of grace. We stand in the mansion of grace. They abide in the atmosphere of Grace. Why? Well because we have Peace with God and have been granted unhindered access to God whose inclination toward you is not condemnation but love and acceptance, and joy.

32. My friend, if you have been justified by faith, you now live in the Palace of Grace. Not the dungeon of Law, but the Palace of Grace. So what do you need?

- Do you want to worship God with your whole heart? There’s grace for that.
- Do you need wisdom for life? There is grace for that.
- Do you need assurance? There’s grace for that.
- Do you need the peace that passes understanding to guard your heart and mind? There’s

grace for that.

- Do you need real and lasting change? There is grace for that.
- Have you sinned? Your Father will not kick you out of the palace because of your sin. You simply need his fatherly forgiveness. There's grace for that!
- The guiding principle in the Palace of grace is this:
 - Ask and you will receive.
 - Seek and you will find,
 - Knock and the door will be opened to you.

33. What does your heavenly Father demand of you? Only this, that you Stand in this grace; that you persevere in this grace; that you abide in this grace come what may.

34. The apostle Peter mentions this, 1 Peter 5:12

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother ...I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

35. But even in that, He does not expect that you will stand by your own power and effort. No! By His grace he will give you what He commands.

36. This is why I end nearly every worship service here with the same benediction from the book of Jude who commanded "Keep yourselves in the love of God." And then he says, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory... etc. You see beloved, because of your justification, you live in the palace of grace. So whatever you need, there's grace for that.

37. John R.W. Stott wrote,

Our relationship with God, into which justification has brought us, is not sporadic but continuous, not precarious but secure. We do not fall in and out of grace like courtiers who may find themselves in and out of favor with ...politicians and the public. No, we stand in it, for that is the nature of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love (8:38f.).²

38. Is your justification sufficient to take you all the way home! Let there be no doubt! Because the overflow of you justification includes

- Union with God,
- Peace with God, and
- Access to God in the palace of grace. As Paul will declare in chapter 8, "There is now,

² John R. W. Stott, [*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 140.

therefore, NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

- So, rest in His grace.
- Worship in his grace.
- Confess and repent of sin in His grace
- Be content in His grace.
- Stand in grace by the power of His grace.

Justification by faith is proved sufficient by the eternal gifts that it secures.