

# Justification By Faith Alone

Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 23  
Galatians 2 (KJV)

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## Introduction

1. There is a profound spiritual profit when we believe the truth of God's Word expressed in the Apostles' Creed: "I know that I am righteous in Christ, before God."
2. This truth of justification is so important to consider.

## The Forensic Idea

1. Justification is the forensic (legal) act of God declaring to us that we are righteous.
  - a. We must think of ourselves before God the Judge in the courtroom of heaven.
  - b. God's declaration to us is that we are forgiven and righteous!
2. This truth is amazing and beautiful because it sets us free in our experience.
  - a. This truth speaks to us about our relationship with God – a relationship of friendship. Romans 5:1 This is amazing and overwhelming.
  - b. It is so important to understand this truth rightly because so many are denying this truth today.

## The Alien Righteousness...how can God declare me righteous when personally I am not?

1. Not because God can simply pardon our sins or because I am righteous myself.
  - a. Let us remember that God cannot simply pardon or declare us righteous and does not.
  - b. Galatians 2:16 teaches clearly that a man is not justified by his own works.
2. The only basis for our being declared righteous is the alien righteousness of Jesus Christ.
  - a. The only basis of our justification is the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ in our place. Romans 5:19
  - b. God has imputed this righteousness to me – also a legal term.

## The Means of Faith...Faith is the only means of justification.

1. What is faith? Faith is the gift of God whereby we are united to Christ and we embrace Christ and appropriate all His benefits. Heidelberg Catechism – End of Answer 60 & Answer 61
2. Let us embrace this truth of justification by faith alone.