

BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

Thinking Biblically: The Biblical Grid

Theology		
Creation	Fall	Redemption
Cosmology	Hamartiology	Soteriology
Anthropology		

“[A Christ-centered worldview] involves three fundamental dimensions: the original good creation, the perversion of that creation through sin, and the restoration of that creation in Christ.”
(Albert Wolters, Creation Regained)




BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

- **Matthew 7:24-27** – The Wiseman Builds his house on **Truth**
 - **John 14:6** – Way, Truth, Life
 - We are to build our lives on the truth of the gospel.
 - Faith acts on what is true. (**Rom 10:17**)
 - “The just shall live by faith” (**Rom 1:16,17**)

The Just

By Faith

Shall Live

The Way

The Truth

The Life

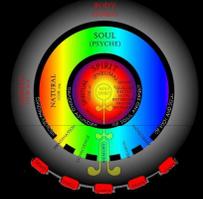


JUSTIFICATION BY HIS BLOOD

2. The threefold truth of justification through the blood of Christ.
 1. God is satisfied.
 - **1 Peter 1:18,19; Exodus 12:13**
 - **Romans 5:1** – I am at peace with God.
 - **Ephesians 1:13** – I can have intimacy with God.
 - I am sealed “in Him” **Ephesians 1:13,14; 2 Corinthians 1:21,22**
 2. My own conscience is cleansed.
 - **Hebrews 10:22**
 - **Romans 8:1** – no condemnation!
 3. Overcoming Satan the accuser
 - **Romans 8:33,34; 8:31**

JUSTIFICATION BY HIS BLOOD

3. Justification restores our relationship with God and allows Him to work in us.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:23**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- How can one tell if he or she is truly justified?
 - **Romans 5:17**



PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

The Gospels should always be read backwards – bathed in the shed blood of Christ and His death on the cross!

- **Matthew 1:21** and **Luke 2:10,11**
- **1 Corinthians 2:2** – nothing but Jesus and Him crucified
- We should keep ever before us the death of Jesus for our sins and resurrection of Jesus for our life.

How does the broken condition of humanity (**Rom. 3:23; 5:12**) get fixed?

One word: **justification** – God’s act of declaring or making a sinner righteous before Him.

righteous: being pleasing to God, of worth, of value.

PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

Let’s learn how to avoid the epidemic of our day – talking endlessly about God, but not knowing how to be right with Him.

Luke 18:9-14 (remember, this is fulfilled in the obedience of the cross: death for our justification; resurrection for our sanctification)

- The Pharisees (the religious of His day) didn’t understand that everything written about God in the Old Testament was pointing to a Redeemer, a Savior, a Sacrifice, the Righteous One on whom their sins would be laid and in whom they would become the righteousness of God. (**Romans 10:30**)

This parable is about how to be justified and how not! (**14**)

- *to not about!* (v.9)

PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

The great error – v.9

- "who trusted in themselves that they were righteous"

Three things about this group of righteous people:

1. His righteousness was moral. (vv.10-11)
 - Notice how he presents his righteousness: "I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers"
 - Morally speaking, he was an upright man – he was morally righteous.
 - The way I treat those around me is right in Your sight.
2. His righteousness was religious. (v.12)
 - Tithing and fasting are spiritual disciplines.
 - He was religiously devout.

PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

3. His righteousness was the gift of God. (v.11)

- "God, I thank Thee"
- He gives God credit for making him morally and religiously righteous.
- His error wasn't in thinking that he produced the righteousness – it is not saying that he is trusting in himself to make himself righteous.
- What then is his error?
 - v.9: "who trusted in themselves that they were righteous"
 - When it came to justification this man was trusting in the wrong thing – he was looking at the wrong basis and ground for his righteousness before God.

PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

- What then is his error?
 - He is trusting in himself that he is righteous with the righteousness that God has worked in him.
 - He was looking at the wrong person and the wrong righteousness – he was looking at something in himself – **he was looking to himself!**
- Justification is by faith alone on the basis of Christ alone – it is NOTHING about us!
 - **Romans 5:1** – "Therefore having been justified by faith"
 - **Ephesians 2:8,9** – "not of yourselves"
 - **2 Corinthians 3:5** – "not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves"

PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

- How then?
 - **v.13-14** – "be merciful [be propitiated or satisfied] to me, the sinner"
 - He understood that he was a sinner – nothing on his own, nothing in himself, nothing before a Holy God.
 - He looked away from himself to God! (faith – **Heb. 12:2**)
 - Bringing the cross into the story:
 - **1 Corinthians 1:30** – "in Christ"
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** – "in Him"
 - The New Covenant – nothing coming from me, everything coming from Him!

PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION

- Black and white: v.14
 - "rather than the other"
 - What is the opposite of justified in the court of law?
 - Condemned – guilty!
 - **Romans 8:1** – "no condemnation for those who are in Christ"
 - People who really believe that the righteousness that God helps them do in this life is a sufficient basis for their justification, Jesus says, will not be justified!
 - Are you trusting in any righteousness that God has worked in you for the basis of your acceptance and acquittal and justification?
 - We are not justified by the righteousness that Christ works **in us**, but by the righteousness that Christ is **for us**.