

17 September 2017

## A believer's standing before God (Pt 1 Justified, redeemed & righteous)

Today we begin a new study on the standing of a believer before God. We will establish that the saved are justified, redeemed and imputed with the righteousness of God at the moment they believe the gospel that has the power to save a man today – the gospel of Christ crucified.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. The believer is justified.

"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Rom.8: 30).

When a person believes the gospel of Christ crucified in their heart by faith they are justified – made just as if they had never sinned. This doctrine was first articulated by Martin Luther in 1516–17, who established the doctrine of justification by faith alone from Rom.1: 17 "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith".

### 2. The believer is redeemed.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal.3: 13).

### 3. The believer is imputed with the righteousness of God.

"And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which [he had yet] being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness....But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead" (Rom 4:22 & 24).

Doctrinally a saved man has the righteousness of Christ, because he was imputed with it, he was given it freely by God when he believed God in his heart – hence it is "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness..." (Rom.10: 10).

### Applying the teaching to our life today.

There was a man preaching with his wife standing beside him and a younger believer, from the other side of the road came over, and introduced himself. Within a few minutes the preacher asked if he could lose his salvation when he sins, and the believer said "no – not according to the scriptures" and proceeded to quote some verses like Eph.1: 13. But the preacher took the younger believer to other scriptures then called him a heretic, and so the younger believer departed.

Question to think about.

A common question asked by those on the street and one also addressed in the scriptures – because we are justified before God, redeemed, imputed with the righteousness of God by His grace at the moment we believe – "shall we continue in sin?" (Rom.6: 1).

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

"God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom.6: 2).

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Rom 6:12, 13).

A believer's standing before God does not change, unless of course they have believed in vain (had not ever believed at all). If we could lose our salvation then we would all be in and out of the body of Christ, never knowing whether we had done enough to stay in the body and so go to heaven when we die. But salvation in this age is "of faith, that it might be by grace" (Rom.4: 16), such that once we believe we are justified, redeemed and imputed with the righteousness of God.