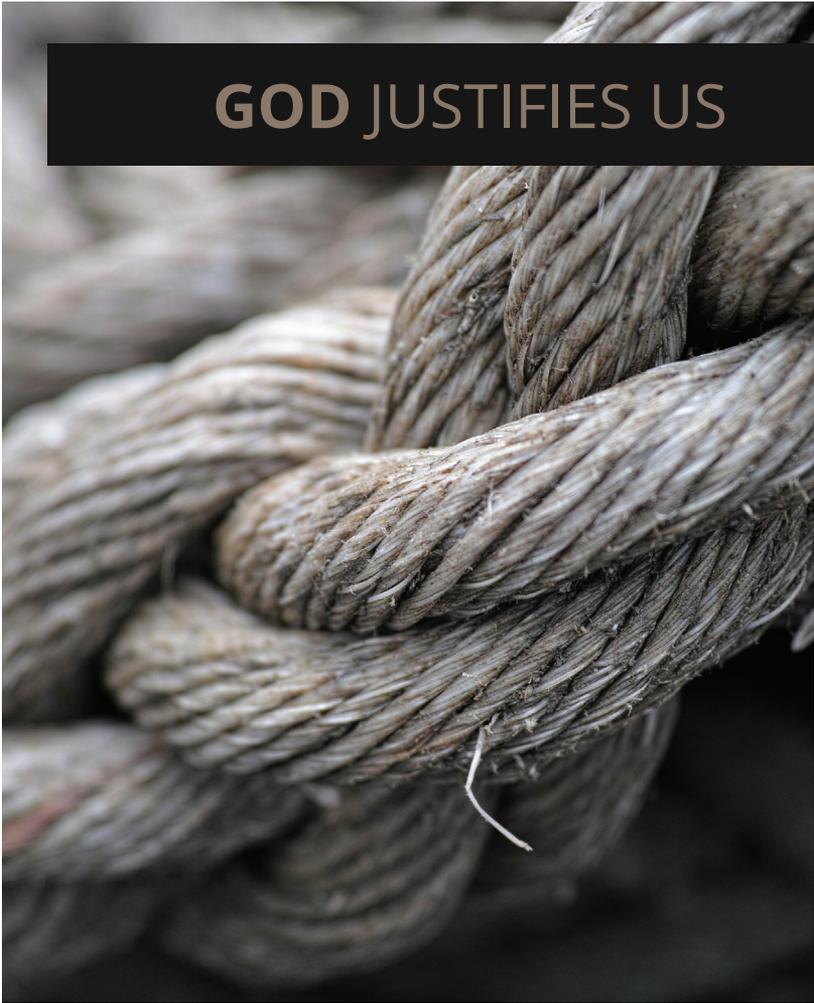


GOD JUSTIFIES US



Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Romans 8:33-34





GOD JUSTIFIES US

Romans 8:33-34

If you trust in Christ, you are forgiven and much more. You are also justified. This means that you have been credited with the perfect obedient life of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as he, upon the cross, was credited with your sins. It is God the Father who has justified you in Christ. Personally, you are not made righteous yet, but you have a position of a perfect and permanent righteous standing before the throne of God.

Resting in this reality is so important for us who trust in Christ. This is not legal fiction but a certainty that assures us and motivates us toward holiness and a militancy against indwelling sin. As believers, we still face temptation and we still sin. Our sins do not please our heavenly Father. He calls us to confess our sins, repent and turn toward his promised forgiveness and receive restored fellowship with the Father. Due to the finished work of Christ, the Father “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Both our conscience and the accuser, the devil, will lob accusations at us. The evil one will challenge us to doubt our justification before God. “You have done it now! Surely, your sin and failure mean that you have lost God’s favor. How can you claim to love God and be a follower of Christ?” At those moments do not

despair. God has indeed justified you, which means that there is no one who can condemn you. This is because Christ Jesus has died, taking your judgment upon himself. Further, he was raised and hence vindicated by the Father, which secured your justification (Romans 4:25). The risen and glorified Christ also makes continual intercession for you as High Priest. He has already pronounced his verdict of justification and Christ continually stands as your righteousness before the throne of God remaining your advocate in the presence of your gracious Father. Do not despair!

THIS WEEK, AS YOU PRAY:

- Pray that the Father gives you understanding and assurance of your justification before him in Christ.
- Pray that you learn to rest in this great reality and find motivation to grow in personal holiness.
- Thank the Father for the justification he has given you in Christ Jesus.
- Thank Christ for his continual intercession for you and pray that this will strengthen you against accusations leveled against you.