

Lecture 15-Justification**Prayer**

Almighty God, You set before our eyes the many evils by which we have provoked Your anger against us. And yet, You give us the hope of pardon if we repent. Grant us a teachable spirit that, with becoming meekness, we may pay attention to Your warnings, but not so as to despair of the mercy offered us, but seek it through Your Son, as He has once for all made peace with You by shedding His blood. So cleanse us also by Your Spirit from all our pollutions until, at last, we stand spotless before You in that day when Christ shall appear for the salvation of all His people. Amen.

Justification

(See Appendix G for an outline of 3, 11-19)

I. Importance of the Doctrine

- A. "The main hinge on which religion turns" (3, 11, 1; cf. 3, 14, 11)
- B. Calvin's agreement with Luther
- C. Nine chapters (3, 11-19; 3, 14, 6)

II. The Relation of Justification by Faith to Sanctification

- A. Both are gifts of the Gospel
- B. Which can never be separated
- C. But must not be confused
 - 1. Osiander - we are made righteous by the infusion of Christ's essence; Calvin: We "who are not righteous in ourselves may be reckoned as such in Christ" (3, 11, 3)
 - 2. Roman Catholics - add works to grace (3, 11, 15); Calvin: two mutually exclusive answers: the righteousness of works and the righteousness of faith (3, 11, 2; 3, 12, 4)

III. Calvin's Definitions

- A. 3, 11, 2 - "the acceptance with which God receives us into his favor as righteous..."
- B. 3, 11, 3 - "...to acquit us of guilt..."
- C. 3, 17, 8 - "...reconciled to God by his grace..."
- D. Two Ideas - imputed righteousness and forgiveness of sins
 - 1. Imputed righteousness (3, 11, 23; 3, 14, 11)
 - 2. Forgiveness of sins (3, 11, 21; 3, 11, 11)

IV. Results of the Doctrine of Justification by Faith

- A. Serves God's glory and honor
- B. Gives us peace of conscience

V. Christian Freedom

- A. "An appendage of justification" (3, 19, 1)
- B. Freedom from the law (3, 19, 2)
- C. Freedom to freely obey God (3, 19, 5)
- D. Freedom in indifferent things [*adiaphora*]
 - 1. Moderation
 - a. Asceticism (3, 19, 7; 3, 19, 8)
 - b. Indulgence (3, 19, 12)
 - 2. Compassion (3, 19, 12)
 - a. We must distinguish between "the ignorance of our weak brothers" and "the rigor of the Pharisees" (3, 19, 11; 3, 19, 12)
 - b. We must not "offend God" in our zeal not to offend our neighbor (3, 19, 13)

Roman Catholic System of Salvation Compared with Calvin's Doctrine of Justification by Faith Alone

- I. Roman Catholic System- "Faith and Works" (3, 11, 13)
 - A. One does "what is in him" - Catholic acts of piety
 - B. *Meritum de Congruo* (half-merit) - grace
 - C. *Meritum de Condigno* (full merit) - reward
 - D. Everlasting life
- II. Calvin's "Order of Justification" (3, 11, 16; 3, 11, 13)
 - A. God does "what is in Him" (3, 11, 16; 3, 11, 13)
 - B. Faith (3, 11, 16; 3, 11, 10; 3, 11, 7)
 - C. Good works (3, 16, 1)
 - 1. God forms our hearts to the "love and cultivation of righteousness (2, 5, 5)
 - 2. We "perform that which the Spirit of God performs in us" (2, 5, 15)
 - D. Everlasting life

For Further Study

- Reid, W. Stanford. "Justification by Faith According to John Calvin." *Westminster Theological Journal* 42 (Spring 1980): 290-307.
A clear and short treatment of this topic.