

KIRBSTONES

ALONG THE NARROW WAY

curb-stone (kûrb'stôn') - *noun* - one of the stones or a range of stones forming a curb, as along a sidewalk or roadway. Historically, the curbstones were placed vertically along the edges of the roadbed and the paving material was backfilled against the row of curbstones. The curbstones served ⁽¹⁾to hold the material in the roadbed, ⁽²⁾to prevent the scattering of the material along the edges, and ⁽³⁾to define the road itself from all the adjoining areas.

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT.

¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT." - MATTHEW 7:13-14 - NIV

10.2025 | #270



One of the most beautiful truths of the gospel is the doctrine of justification—the act of God declaring us righteous. It is not a slow process, nor is it earned by our effort. It is immediate, complete, and secure from the moment we repent and believe in Christ. In that instant, we are pardoned, our sins are forgiven, and we begin the journey of faith with a new standing before God. Paul proclaims this in Acts 13:39: *Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.*

In other words, what the law could never do—make us right before God—Christ has accomplished through his death and resurrection. Justification is not about our works. It is about his finished work on the cross. The very moment we decide to repent of our sins and to trust God, believe in Christ's work, and receive the Holy Spirit, we receive the full benefit of that work.

This truth brings enormous comfort to the believer. We no longer need to labor under the weight of guilt, trying to earn God's approval or wondering if we have done enough. Romans 8:1 declares with confidence: *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* That word now is crucial. It does not say someday or eventually, but now.

At the moment of faith, condemnation is gone, and justification is present. Our sins are not merely covered over—our sins are put away. We are free. This is the beginning of the Christian journey. Justification is not the end of the story, but the *foundation* upon which everything else rests. Once justified, we are invited into sanctification, which is the ongoing process of becoming more like Christ through the workings of the Holy Spirit. Our justification itself does not depend on growth or maturity. It is the instant verdict of grace, when we turn to Christ in faith.

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1—NIV

Paul takes this further in Romans 5:1: *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice again the immediacy—we have been justified, not we will be.*

Because of this justification, we already possess peace with God. That peace is not a fragile truce to be broken, but it is a settled reconciliation that flows out of Christ's perfect sacrifice.

Another powerful witness comes from Galatians 2:16: *Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.*

Paul emphasizes that justification rests solely on faith, never on performance. The decision to trust Christ is decisive and sufficient for justification. So what does this mean for us today First, it gives us assurance. We do not have to live in fear, wondering whether God has accepted us. If we have repented and believed, then justification is ours—*complete and secure*. Second, it calls us to gratitude. Every day of the Christian life is lived in response to the incredible gift of grace we received at the moment of faith. Third, it invites us to live in freedom. Sin no longer defines us. Guilt no longer enslaves us.

We are justified, and its reality reshapes everything about how we live, love, and serve. Justification is immediate, but it is also eternal. The decision of God to declare us righteous will never, ever be reversed, for it is deeply rooted in Christ's finished work. The law could not justify us. Our own efforts could not justify us. But in Christ, through faith, we are justified freely and fully. We can rest in the assurance that justification.

Copyright © - 2025
Robert Wingfield Kirby III, D.Min.