



This is the greatest explanation of the Gospel and the thought of justification in Christianity from St. Paul the Apostle... How God can justify us by faith and give us a new nature that makes us be one church full of love.

+ **Chapters:** 16.

+ **Writing circumstances:**

- Written during the Third Missionary Journey of St. Paul.
- The Church in Rome was made up of Christians of Jewish origin + Romans who believed on their hands.
- After that, Caesar (Claudius) expelled the Jews from Rome for 5 years (including, of course, Christians of Jewish origin).
- After 5 years, Jews and Christians of Jewish origin returned to Rome.
- At that time, there was a little schism in the Church... Christians of Jewish origin want to preserve Jewish law (circumcision, sanctification on the Sabbath and eating according to Jewish law) while Gentile Christians say that all this is not necessary and that we are free in Christ from the Jewish law! So, there was disagreement and division between them.

+ **Who is addressed by this book?**

- The Christian Romans (Gentiles and Jews).
- Very useful to anyone who wants to understand the meaning of justification by faith in Christianity.
- For every church that has splits due to differences in culture or in customs (not affecting faith).

+ **The purpose of the book:**

- To unite Christians (of Jewish or Gentile origin) in one church by allowing some difference in customs, but with one faith and acceptance of the different cultures of Jews and Gentiles.
- It makes us understand the depth of the Christian faith: justification by the redemption of our Lord Jesus... And works are the result of faith, not the price for justification.

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+ The book arrangement:

Chapters 1 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Gospel Proclaims God's Righteousness.- The Idea of Justifying All Who Believe in the Redemption of Our Lord Jesus.
Chapters 5 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A New Nature of Man.- We have a choice between the old man and the new man.
Chapters 9 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Gospel Fulfillment of God's Promises to His People.- A Quick Lesson from the Old Testament on the Interaction Between God and His People.
Chapters 12 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Gospel unites the Church.- A renewed mind by the Holy Spirit for all believers from all over the world.

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+ The book summary:

1- The Gospel Proclaims God's Righteousness (Chapter 1-4)

• The main idea of the first two chapters:

- + Is that it is the gospel proclaiming the righteousness of God... The word here has two main meanings that our Lord Jesus has achieved: God's justice and mercy.
- + It says that of course God's justice means that the heart of man, who is dominated by sin and selfishness, is worthy of God's wrath:
- Gentiles who walk in immorality and sins (especially pornography) and worship gods other than our Lord... Although they know the existence of our Lord, they deny Him and insist to anger Him... Of course, those who oppose divine justice will be guilty if they insist on their stubbornness.
- Jews whom God gave the law and the prophets... They too were very bad and far from God most of the time and this makes them more guilty because they have a law that tells them right and wrong.
- + Therefore, all humanity is guilty before our Lord; The solution is not in the law, because the law consults against error, but I have no possibility or grace to implement it.

• In the next chapter (3):

- + St. Paul explains that our Lord from his mercy did the greatest thing:
- Our Lord came and incarnated and bore our sin on the cross and thus the justice of our Lord perfected (He took what is ours) and rose and overcame death and gave us the possibility of justification (meaning we will be innocent before our Lord) free (He gave us the One who is his).

Justified freely by his grace by the redemption of Jesus Christ, whom God made as an atonement by faith in his blood, to show his righteousness, to forgive past sins by God's forgiveness. To show His righteousness in the present time, to be righteous and to justify who is from faith in Jesus. Romans 3: 24 of 26

- + The grace of justification. Justice and mercy of God
- + Subject: How can the mercy and justice of our Lord meet on the cross to justify us freely with His blood? And how was this clear in the story of the Easter sheep and the importance of deeds as a fruit of faith.



JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

- + God's justice does not allow innocence, "For the Lord is good" Psalm 100: 5
- A sweet and comforting verse But at the same time it's terrifying.
- Is terrifying, because there is no point of encounter with our Lord other than holiness (without which no one can see God) ... 100% but a confusing verse.
- + The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty. Exodus 34: 6, 7
- How forgiving, but he will not be acquitted? I'm not innocent, I'm a sinner... Our Lord is a just judge. It is not possible to acquit the guilty or twist the judiciary.
- + He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the lord. Proverbs 17:15
- This is natural because if our Lord pardoned a guilty person, any permissible limit person would say to our Lord: You must forgive me... I would do whatever I want!
- There is no hope because no matter how much I do even all righteousness, I am dead!!
What is the solution?
- + Justification free by the blood of Christ (The story of the Easter Lamb):
And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.
Exodus 12
- What is the need for this? Israel was isolated in Jasan... They were thus separated from the pharaohs, what is the need for blood? Why is this strike?
- There were many blows that hit the Egyptians only.
- If one of the Israelites had thought: "My son is better than others... I don't need to put this blood down." Would he have lived?!
- If one of the Egyptians was afraid of the subject and put blood on his door, would he survive?

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JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

+ The key to understanding the story:

For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. Exodus 12:23

- Not only the perishable that has crossed, but there is also a more important event: first our Lord has crossed (here it means Basakh = the bosom of the door) ... Our Lord finds the blood (the blood of the only begotten Son) and embraces the door (the son who is in the bosom of his father).
- God didn't see the boy inside the house of the Children of Israel, but the blood We are hiding behind the blood of Christ.
- After this death, when the perishable crossed, he saw the Lord, and so has passed through.

+ Justified freely by His grace. Romans 3:24

- What does it mean justified? it means put it in my account..I who is 0 in terms of righteousness and holiness... Our Lord has put in my account the righteousness and holiness of Christ!
- Free = no reason; There is no reason for what happened other than the love of our Lord.
- This is what happened: justification, not acquittal.
- This is the same thing that is happening to us... It doesn't work, no matter what we do, to stand before our Lord (the Lord is good)...We must hide behind Christ so he finds us blameless.

+ Why to fight?

- Does this mean that I can do what I want as long as I get this justification?
- Saint Paul reply: What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Romans 6:1-2)
- Good works are not the price of justification but the fruit of faith.
- Works do not save a person (by my works I am not saved)... Is it appropriate when I am invited to the most important thing (dinner for the king's son) after dinner, I pay the owner of the place a sum of money! Then no matter what I do, nothing makes me worthy!

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- + Works without faith! = deserving of entering the kingdom!
- Evidence: Cornelius... a good person, but not a believer... Our Lord looked at his deeds and sent Saint Peter to him so that he might preach to him the good news of faith so that he would be saved.
- But I must accept justification and live according to the new state in which I had been (in Christ, righteous and blameless).
- If there are no good deeds, then directly doubt in your faith.
- + The result of justification: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)
- Peace = Irene = attaching two previously separate entities together.
- + Not taking pride by the works:
- We have confidence that we will enter heaven through the blood of Christ... If you said, "Oh God, be merciful to me, I am the sinner," like the tax collector, you will come out justified.. Even though he admitted that he is a sinner (guilty)... I say with hope: Lord, you can justify me.
- Unlike the Pharisee (the hypocrite) who stood boasting; let your righteousness benefit you!
- The employee (who works for a wage) is entitled to his wages... This is not a blessing... This is how anyone who sees that he will enter by his works.
- **Chapter (4):** Justification is by faith, not by works
- + Our father Abraham (a great man and his deeds are great) was not justified by works but by faith.
But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness (Romans 4:5)
- + This means that, he who is not yet able to do righteous deeds, but he believes that the righteousness that is coming to him is not a result of his works, but rather because of the grace of our Lord. This is the one whose faith is counted as righteousness.

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- + Servant or hired servant? Illustration of the story of the prodigal son:
- The father did not leave his son to complete (Make me like one of your hired servants) out of fear for him... Let us see the difference between a slave and a hired servant:
 - 1- The hired servant receives a wage (meaning he can demand that the owner of the place give him a wage in exchange for his work)...while the servant does not have the right to demand a wage in exchange for his work.
 - 2- The hired worker is not invited: And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it.(Exodus 12:43-45).
 - 3- Keep in mind... If we are treated as hired servants, no matter how much we work, we will not deserve the wage, so we will leave empty-handed.
- + We (we were bought with a price)...we were outside the people of our Lord and our Lord bought us with his blood... Each one of us has become a servant of Jesus Christ, the Master, he who gives the servants and does not demand anything from them... except holiness.
- + Means of grace and the spiritual atmosphere, when we enter into them, we grow in holiness (like an agricultural greenhouse)... To see the Lord, we do not come to church to act or perform a duty... We come to thank God for the greatest gift: justification.
- + The Lord is good... it costed our Lord the cross and the blood of His only Son... so that the righteousness of Christ may be credited to our account... To justify us, save us, and bring us to Him... Thus, mercy and justice met (in the cross).
- + This justification is for everyone who is "in Christ" (Jew or Gentile)... Everyone who believes is part of a large family called the Church.
- + As we see in the fourth chapter, this fulfills the promise of our Lord to His children in the Old Testament (from the first of our father Abraham, who believed the promise of our Lord and believed, he was counted righteous because of his faith... ..and our Lord promised him an offspring in which all nations and peoples would be blessed...the offspring = Jesus Christ, and the invitation is to everyone who believes in his salvation and redemption).

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2- A new nature for human (Chapters 5 -8)

- **In chapter (5):**

- + And between the second Adam (our Lord Jesus) who obeyed until death on the cross and offered himself as a sinless sacrifice of love... ...And he became the head of a new humanity, giving it a justified nature and the ability to love and live away from sin and in reconciliation with God.

- **In chapter (6):**

- + Saint Paul tells us that we have a choice: the ancient man (the first Adam) who is living in sin like the rest of the people in this world... And between the new man (the man of baptism) in which the first Adam died and was crucified with Christ, and a man rose from baptism with the new nature justified by faith... ...the nature that wants to reach the stature of the fullness of Christ...that is able to freely love our Lord and love others.

- **In chapter (7):**

- + Saint Paul answers a logical question: We said that the law, the commandments, and the law cannot justify anyone... Why did God give it to his people in the Old Testament?
- + The answer is that the law is good... and this was the way God really wanted his people to live... But they did not live by it, and as we said, this makes them more guilty because they know what is wrong, but they do it... Why, Lord?
- + This fact makes it very clear that evil has overcome the human heart... ...and thinking that a set of commandments is the solution is a wrong idea because the commandments alone will not cleanse the human heart... A new nature is needed that can carry out the commandment.

- **In chapter (8):**

- + Saint Paul says that the solution is in the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, who justified those who believe in Him... ...And the Holy Spirit who renews our nature in baptism and chrismation and fulfills the commandment of the law: Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself... The spirit that renews all the creation: **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus: , who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.(Romans 8: 1)**



3- The Gospel is a fulfillment of God's promises to his people

(Chapters 9-11)

+ Here comes a question: What is the fate of the Jews? Did our Lord reject His people of the Old Testament? This is what Saint Paul answers:

• **In chapter (9):**

- + Saint Paul feels sorry for all the Jews who do not believe in Jesus Christ.
- + He says that being one of God's people does not mean that you will be saved... Our Lord chooses the heart that believes in Him.
- + And from the Old Testament, you see that our Lord chose, for example, Jacob whose heart remained righteous with him and walked in the faith of Isaac and Abraham... And did not choose Esau, whom the book says was an adulterer, promiscuous, and sold the birthright.
- + Our Lord cannot be satisfied without faith in Christ.
- + And Saint Paul continues, and gives examples of people from outside Israel who also opposed the will of our Lord (like Pharaoh in the days of Moses)... And God uses even the people's rejection of Him (with their full freedom, of course, He is not the one who let them reject Him, they took their chance for the last) to achieve His purpose (all things work together for good).

• **In chapter (10):**

- + Saint Paul makes us understand that many Jews reject our Lord Jesus because they want to save themselves through their deeds (obedience to the law)... and they do not understand that no one can ever deserve salvation by his works... rather, salvation comes through faith in our righteousness, Jesus the Redeemer, who completely justified us... works are necessary, but they are a result of the faith that justified us, not a price for it or a way by which we deserve righteousness.
- + For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (Romans 10: 3)

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- **In chapter (11):**

- + Saint Paul tells us about the future of Israel:

- Our Lord did not reject His people, as evidenced by the fact that the apostles and Paul himself were Jews.

- But our Lord's people rejected Him.

- And he took advantage of this rejection so that the evangelism could reach the gentiles as well and let them enter the family (the church).

- + He gives an example: a large olive tree with many branches (our Lord Jesus is the original and his people in the Old Testament are the original branches)... Every Jew who does not believe is like branches that are cut off from the tree... And every one of the gentiles who believes is like branches of a field without a root, grafted into this tree... And you stand firm in it by faith.

- + But Saint Paul is confident that one day the Jews too (the people of the Old Testament) will believe in our Lord Jesus and fulfill the promises of the Old Testament.



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4- The Gospel unites the church (Chapters 12 - 16)

+ After that, Saint Paul moves to an idea that is logical now: The New Testament Church that has faith in our Lord Jesus, who justified it and gave it a new nature, must be a united church... It does not matter who is inside it, Jew or Gentile.

+ And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

• Chapter (12) - be transformed:

+ The struggles that a Christian who wants to do right in the world faces (especially young people)... and the role of struggle and grace in his life.

+ The conflict:

- I am a Christian = I am a servant = I am a role model = I am different... But is it important that my “appearance” remains a servant regardless of my insides... But because I am a servant or a Christian?

- I am still a young man and I want to live my life.

- There is a conflict between what I should be and what I want to do inside me.

- Should I leave the service? Or shall I only care about my appearance on the outside and my behavior that is apparent to people?

- The surprise is that the Apostle Paul himself had this conflict!! Let's see this in the order of the Epistle to the Romans:

1- The first 5 chapters: The Law (Difficult words, and no one knows how to complete them)

2- chapters 6 and 7: His struggle is personal, the struggle between the flesh that seeks to sin... and the spirit that seeks to our Lord: because I do not do the good that I want, but rather the evil that I do not want, so I do it. (Romans 7)

• In chapter (8 - 12) : The work of grace:

+ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you. (Romans 8)

+ Means our Lord's grace frees us.. and our Lord loves us and will save us in all circumstances.. there is war, but our Lord loves me, called me, and chose me, regardless of my appearance and weaknesses.. our Lord meets me in all circumstances.



+ Grace:

- Our Lord chose us all, liberated us, and made us children; What comes after that is a change from within. We experience that we are the free children of our Lord, no matter how we look, we change or beautify us. It is impossible for nature itself to change; Our Lord (the King) is the one who chose us and gave us this possibility (that we are his children) Whatever our appearance, God chose us and gave us the possibility to be kings.
- We received a new nature in baptism... After that, any change remains possible... Let us read the verse again now in this spirit.

so I urge you, brothers, by the compassion of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice. A holy serpent acceptable to God, your rational worship. And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may experience what the will of God is: what is good, acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12: 1, 2).

+ What does “be transformed” mean?

- This is what is important, not appearance... We have received the blessing of a life of holiness and it has become upon us... Resist and conquer the old nature (and Satan lies that there is no benefit in you inside of you).
- Satan’s war is based on doubt... even when he is speaking to God (if you are Son of God)
- But after the Sunday of temptation comes the Sunday of the prodigal son... I am his son and he accepted me no matter what my condition was... no matter my sins,
- The change in appearance became a result, not a goal... as a result of our acceptance of God’s work inside us and the new nature within us
- This conflict was the result of me wanting to prove myself and say that I am good... while God provided me this for nothing :) I am in all cases his son, without being beautiful in appearance... He loves me and accepts me all the time... and the nature that he gives me provides me freedom and to live in the glory of the children of God.
- Yes, we fight and fall and struggle... but in the end we will prevail if we continue to cling to what God wants and trust in our Lord’s love for us and His fatherhood for us.
- With this feeling, I am able to offer myself and my body to Him as a sacrifice of love.

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+ The fight:

- Does what happened last (God loves me and has always accept me) mean that I take it easy and say that's it, leave me as I am, why should I fight??
- No, of course, the matter requires effort... and I need acceptance of God's grace for me... this is what truly liberates me... anything else will return the conflict again... and I will be enslaved to sin.
- I have the ability... but I can accept it or reject it... to live it or not... Do I believe that I am a king like my father or not... But I try to remain as a son of God, and I want to live like the people of the world? It is not possible... We will never rest.
- See, God loves you as much, no matter what you do... and how many times have you been away and He has brought you back... until you yourself decide to be like him and never go back to living the life of the people of the world again... the issue comes with a decision... after that, it gets normal and comes from inside me.
- Give time and opportunity for the grace and love of God to change you... and always be sure that you are different... You, God, give you a different nature so that you can be a light to the world... You don't need to make an effort to your look and say, "How can I light?" ... Leave yourself to God and you will be enlightened... Enter into daily life with God and you will be changed.

• In chapters 12 and 13, St. Paul says that there are two keys:

- + love... Love will allow everyone in the church to use his gift to build the whole.
- + Tolerance, the customs of the Jews are different from the nations... but with love and tolerance of unimportant differences, the church will be united.



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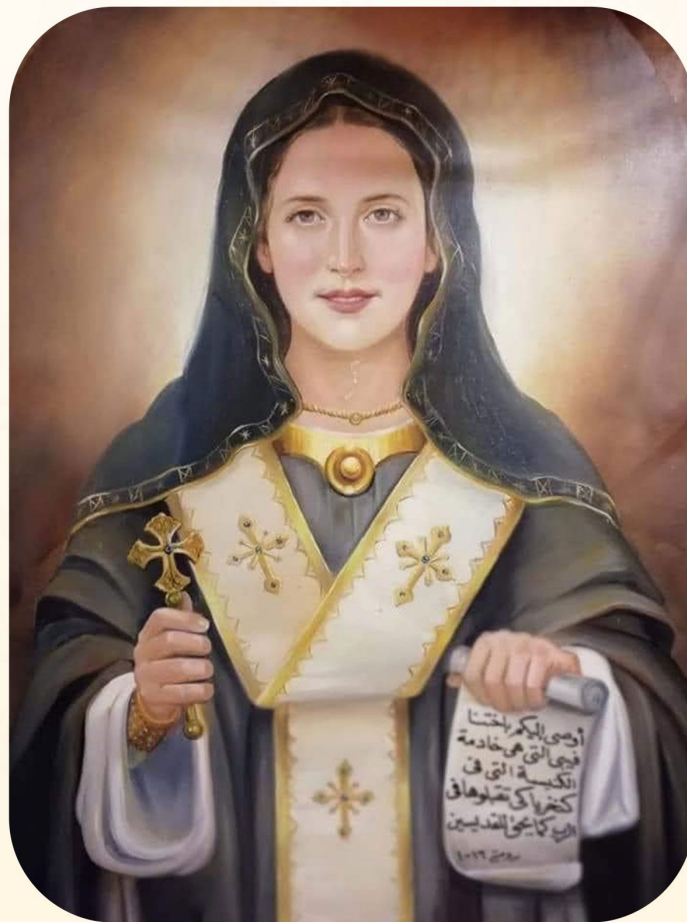
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- **Chapter (14 - 15) :**

- + St. Paul elaborates on the reasons for these differences... For example, the Jews sanctify the Sabbath... and eat only according to the law... and they are required to have circumcision.
- + St. Paul says that these things are important, like customs and cultures, but they are not important for salvation... the Jew must respect the customs of the Gentile and vice versa... so that a church is united in love in our Lord Jesus.

- **In chapter (16) : The work of grace:**

- + St. Paul concludes the letter by thanking Deaconess Phoebe, who wrote this letter and delivered it to the people of Rome... and he thanked some of the people there.



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