

- ## CONNECT

WORD

... ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ROMANS 3:23,24

WHAT

Jesus' finished work on the cross has made it possible for sinners who put their faith in Him to be declared righteous in the eyes of the Ultimate Judge, set free from guilt and punishment (1 Corinthians 1:30; Romans 3:24). This is called justification. How does justification happen?

1 Not by works

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. EPHESIANS 2:8,9

We cannot be justified by our own good deeds, by obeying the law, etc. Romans 3:20 tells us that future obedience cannot atone for past sins and no one can obey perfectly. It is the law that makes us aware about our sin and its consequences, but it cannot remove the guilt. Who is the only One who can remove guilt?

2 By the Blood of Christ

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 1 PETER 1:18,19

The only grounds and basis that God can have to declare a guilty person as “not guilty,” is for the guilt to be laid on another. Christ took our place, our guilt, and we, His righteousness (Romans 3:24; 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21)! How is Christ's work on the cross enough to save us (1 Peter 3:18)?

3 By grace through faith

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God . . . EPHESIANS 2:8

We are able to receive justification by grace, that is, not out of something we do or earn, but it is God's gift to us. And we can only experience it as we put our faith in the complete and finished work of Christ (Romans 3:28; 4:5; 5:1). How can this truth help in changing the worldly mindset of depending on the flesh?
