

Sunday, April 16, 2017—Romans 4:25—Christ’s Finished Work Explain in One Verse

### Introduction

- Easter like Christmas possesses many of the trappings of religion. For many people these are the only two times throughout the year that they go to church.
- Colossians 2:16—many have responded to the religious aspect of Easter by refusing to acknowledge the significance of the day at all.
- In this church the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are not events we remember and celebrate for one day or one season of the year. The preaching of the cross work of Christ and his resurrection from the dead for the basis of our faith and focus of our preaching year round.

### Romans 4:25

- This verse encapsulates the significance of events in Christ’s passion. A careful reading of this verse reveals two central issues that warrant our attention.
- ***“Who was delivered for our offences,”***
- According to *Strong’s Concordance* the Greek word translated delivered carries the following meanings:
  - to give into the hands (of another)
  - to give over into (one's) power or use
    - to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage
    - to deliver up one to custody, to be judged, condemned, punished, scourged, tormented, put to death
    - to deliver up treacherously
      - by betrayal to cause one to be take
- Matthew 26:2, 15-25, 45-48; 27:15-26—Jesus was betrayed and delivered to be crucified.
- Romans 4:25—tells us why he was delivered *“for our offences.”*
  - Romans 5:15-18
  - Ephesians 1:7
  - Ephesians 2:1, 5
  - Colossians 2:13—Jesus was delivered to the cross to settle our sin issue.

### Seven Questions Regarding Christ's Death

- **For Whom Did Christ Die?** Christ died for ungodly sinners who were his enemies (Romans 5:6-10), i.e., Christ died for you and me.
- **For What did Christ Die?** Christ died for our sins (I Corinthians 15:3)
- **Why Did Christ Come Into the World?** Christ came into the world to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself (Hebrews 9:26), and save sinners (I Timothy 1:15)
- **Did God the Father Have Anything to Do With Christ's Death for Our Sins?** God the father sent his son in the likeness of sinful flesh for the purpose of condemning sin in the flesh (Romans 8:3). God the father made Christ to be sin for us (II Corinthians 5:21)
- **Did Christ Die Willingly?** Christ willingly gave himself for us (Galatians 1:4)
- **What did Christ do With our Sins?** Christ bore our sins upon himself as he died in our place upon the cross (Isaiah 53:12, I Peter 2:24).
- **Is it Necessary for Christ to Repeat This Act?** No, this was a once for all transaction. Jesus Christ left nothing undone (I Peter 3:18, Hebrews 10:12)

### Romans 4:25

- *"and was raised again for our justification."*
- The second half of verse 25 tells us the rest of the story. Jesus Christ did not stay dead he was raised again for our justification.
- Justification means to Reckon or to declare one righteous. The Greek word for *"Justify"* is actually the same Greek word which is translated *"righteousness"* in Romans 3:21 & 22. Therefore to **"JUSTIFY"** means: To *"Righteous-ify"* or; *To Reckon One Righteous.*
  - NOTE: This does not mean that the Believer is made righteous as far as his practical life is concerned. It means that God declares him to be righteous. Remember, the righteousness given to a Believer is not handed to him, but is put to his account. You are not made as righteous as Jesus Christ, you are credited as having His righteousness. It is on this basis that God declares you righteous.
- Romans 3:28—the works of the law cannot justify the sinner
- We understand from the word *"Impute"* that God takes *His righteousness* and puts it to the account of all who believe in Jesus Christ. Therefore even though I am a sinner (as Romans 3:23

clearly states), the moment I believe, God credits His righteousness to me and then *declares me righteous*. This is "*Justification*".

- Romans 8:33—says we are *Justified by God*. - He is the Source.
- Romans 5:9—says we are *Justified by Blood*. - Christ's blood is the basis.
- Romans 3:24—says we are *Justified by Grace*. - This is the Means
- Romans 5:1—says we are *Justified by Faith*. - Here is the Appropriation.
- Romans 4:25—says we are *Justified by the Resurrection of Christ*. - This is the Guarantee
- **"JUSTIFICATION" IS A LEGAL TERM.**
- "*Justification*" speaks of a favorable verdict from God which is pronounced the moment a person believes in Christ. The unfavorable verdict is "*damnation*", which is already upon us and is sealed at death for those neglecting to believe in Christ. The final sentence will come at the future "*Great White Throne Judgment Of God*" spoken of in Revelation 20:11-15.
- Courtrooms are always very frightening, especially if it is you who is going up before the judge. As we think about the term "*Justification*", the scene is in the courtroom of *God's Justice*. God is the Judge. His righteousness is the standard. The time of this hearing is our lifetime (not after we die).<sup>32</sup>
- There we stand before the HIGH AND HOLY JUDGEMENT BAR OF GOD; and we stand there knowing full well that we fall far short of His standard of holiness: we know we are sinners; and we know we're guilty! Yet if we will only believe in what Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the Cross, His righteousness will be put to our account; and when God sounds His verdict, he will declare the believer "**RIGHTEOUS**"! (*Dictionary of the Gospel* by Thomas Bruscha)
- Are you righteous today? If you were to stand before God today what verdict would be handed down?
- I Corinthians 15:3-4—all you to do to receive God's righteousness imputed to your account is believe Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose again the third day for your justification and freely receive the gift of eternal life.
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- I Thessalonians 4:14—belief in the death and resurrection of Christ as the minimum requirements to participate in the catching away of the body of Christ.