Activating God's Grace August 6, 2023

Justification:

- 1. Justification is a specific act of God that moves a sinner from being lost to being saved.
- 2. Justification is the continual state of being saved.

4 specific conditions for activating God's saving grace of justification:

- 1. Faith
- 2. Repentance
- 3. Confession of Faith
- 4. Baptism

Romans 4:5, *"To the one who does not work, but believes in God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness."*

Luke 13:5, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Matthew 3:8; 10, *"Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."*

Acts 2:36, "Know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ."

Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Matthew 28:18-20, "All authority has been given to Me... Go make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to do all I commanded you."

Mark 16:16, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved."

Acts 22:16, "Why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on God's name."

Romans 6:3-5, "...all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection."

Galatians 3:26-27, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Colossians 2:10; 12, "In Christ you have been made complete ... having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."

The Double Cure of Grace:

1. Justification: the forgiveness of sin upon entering into covenant with God.

2. Regeneration: the indwelling and direct working of the Spirit of God, infusing new spiritual life into our spiritually dead souls in the moment of baptism.

Romans 3:28, "We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

1 John 1:9-10, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."

Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

1 John 2:1, "*I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*"

Romans 6:1-2, "*Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin live in it?*"