

**Why the resurrection of Jesus Christ matters (Part 2)-  
Resurrection and Justification  
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**Bible verses**

**Is 53:10-11**

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the Lord makes<sup>[c]</sup> his life **an offering for sin**,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will **see the light of life**<sup>[d]</sup> and be satisfied<sup>[e]</sup>;  
by his knowledge<sup>[f]</sup> **my righteous servant will justify** many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

**Acts 13:36-41**

<sup>36</sup> "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. <sup>37</sup> But the one whom God raised from the dead **did not see decay**.

<sup>38</sup> "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup> Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a **justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses**. <sup>40</sup> Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

<sup>41</sup> "'Look, you scoffers,  
wonder and perish,  
for I am going to do something in your days  
that you would never believe,  
even if someone told you.'<sup>[e]</sup>"

**Romans 4:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was **raised to life for our justification**.

**Introduction**

- Looking at the implications of Jesus' resurrection
- Last week, we saw the impact on the cosmos- Jesus is the ruler of all!
- This week we see that in our lives, the resurrection assures us that we are "justified"

**Two truths about the universe**

- **Truth 1: God the creator is a judge**

## Genesis 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

“You had one job”! and we blew it!

- **Truth 2: humans (including you and I) are sinners**

### The Answer

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we can be declared innocent, we can be “justified”!

- See this in Isaiah 53
- Paul in Acts 13
- Paul in Romans 4:25

- we need *both* the cross and the resurrection for our justification to be sure. If justification is a judicial verdict of “not guilty”, rendered on the basis of Jesus’s death, then it is not finally seen to be effective until the innocent prisoner at the bar is seen to walk out of the court, head held high!

-see 1 Tim 3:16:

<sup>16</sup> Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:  
He appeared in the flesh,  
was **vindicated** by the Spirit,<sup>[a]</sup>  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.

- because Jesus is “vindicated”, “justified”, those who trust him also receive this blessing

[I]n raising Christ from death after he has taken upon himself the sins of the world and died, God... is bringing him back from the dead as the One who is now just and experiencing the new life that God grants to those whose sin has been taken away; **this is happening representatively to Christ so that believers may share in this new life**... Hence the resurrection is essential to the saving act in that it is not merely God saying that Christ has done what is necessary; rather, God himself has to carry out the act of pardon on the basis of what Christ has done, and he does so. Thus Christ was raised for our justification, and, without this raising of Christ, we would not be justified.<sup>1</sup>

-we receive this free gift by handing our lives over to Jesus in complete trust

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<sup>1</sup> From *Aspects of the Atonement: Cross and Resurrection in the reconciling of God and humanity* (London: Paternoster, 2007), ch 3.