

the Law of God and His perfect sacrificial death to expiate the guilt and penalty of the transgressed Law are not imparted to us (in some fashion!) but imputed or credited to us. Christ's holy character is not infused in us, or poured into us; rather His righteousness is imputed to us.

Romans 4:5 speaks of the "one who trusts in the One who justifies the ungodly." God declares legally righteous the one who is morally unrighteous. He does this by crediting Christ's righteousness to the believing sinner and on that basis declaring him to be righteous before God.

5. Justification is not based on works (i.e., our works)

- a. Because works in this context have to do with fulfillment of the Law, and the Law cannot justify sinners

(1) The Law was not given to justify sinners, and it cannot have this effect

Galatians 3:19, 21-24 -- "Why the Law then? it was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made." . . . Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith."

I Timothy 1:8-11 -- "But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted."

Romans 7:5, 7-11 -- "For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. . . . What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is