

upon those who have no righteousness at all (legally or morally).

- d. Because the Scriptures represent faith as the means, the instrument, but not the basis of justification.

Romans 3:28 -- "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith (πίστει) apart from the works of the Law."

Romans 5:1 -- "Therefore having been Justified by (ἐκ) faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Galatians 2:16 -- "Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith (διὰ πίστεως) in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith (ἐκ πίστεως), and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified."

Galatians 3:8 -- "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith (ἐκ πίστεως), preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations shall be blessed in you.' "

Galatians 3:24 -- "Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us Christ, that we may be justified by faith (ἐκ πίστεως)."

7. Justification is based on the imputed righteousness of Christ

Christ's righteousness includes His obedience to the Law in all respects, and His penal substitutionary death of expiation of the guilt and penalty of the transgressed Law, and all in our behalf and stead. This righteousness is imputed to every believing sinner, and then that believing sinner is declared righteous by God Himself! Every person thus graciously blessed can sing:

"Clad in this robe, how bright I shine;
Angels have not a robe like mine!"

- C. Objections to the Doctrine

1. "This doctrine of a legal righteousness leads to licentiousness."

This objection disregards the concomitants of justification, especially regeneration and progressive sanctification. The Bible knows of no justified persons who are not also new creatures led by the Holy Spirit who are experiencing progress in their conformity to the likeness of Christ.

2. "This doctrine is inconsistent with the grace of the gospel."

This objection forgets that, although salvation is all of grace for the believing sinner, it was nevertheless purchased by