

How to prepare to evangelize Jehovah's Witnesses.

Jehovah's Witnesses preach a counterfeit gospel, the content of which is intricately complex, involving an organizational name, unbiblical dates, places and imagined 20th century events. Consequently, Witnesses find it difficult to summarize their gospel without including these extra-biblical additions. The best way to be prepared to discuss the good news with Witnesses is to know:

- A. the genuine/biblical gospel.
- B. how to share the genuine gospel with anyone including Witnesses
- C. how to answer the Watchtower's objections to justification by faith.

A. The genuine/biblical gospel?

1. The genuine gospel: labeled

In the King James version, the word gospel appears 98 times. The scriptures identify the gospel in a number of ways. An exemplary scriptural reference follows every identification.

the gospel Mt.11:5

this gospel Mt. 26:13

the gospel of the kingdom Mt.9:35, Acts 20:24-25

this gospel of the kingdom Mt. 24:14

Christ's gospel II Cor. 2:12

the gospel of Christ Ro.15:29

the gospel of Jesus Christ Mk 1:1

the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ II Thes. 1:89

the gospel of God Ro. 15:16

the gospel of the grace of God Acts 20:24

my gospel II Tim. 2:8

our gospel I Thes 1:5

the gospel of justification by faith Gal.3:8,24

the gospel of peace Eph. 6:15

the everlasting gospel Rev. 14:6

the gospel of your salvation Eph. 1:13

2. The genuine gospel: Content

The risen Christ clarified the true gospel that was to be preached to all nations

Like 24:44-47 And he [Jesus] said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. **45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Peter preached the true gospel to Cornelius and company in Acts 10 this way:

Acts 10:39-43 And we are witnesses of all things which Jesus did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: **40** Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; **41** Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. **42** And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. **43** To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (See also Acts 2:22-37)

Paul summarizes the content of the true gospel in I Corinthians 15 this way:

I Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2. By which also ye are saved,** if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3.** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4.** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Paul and Philip preached the gospel of the kingdom by preaching Christ:

Acts 28:23: " So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening."

Acts 8:5, 35 Then Philip went down to the city of **Samaria**, and **preached Christ** unto them..... **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached unto him** (Eunuch) **Jesus**.

3. The genuine gospel: Applicability

i. Christ died for all of humanity

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Roman's 5:18 Therefore by a he offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

II Corinthians 5:14, 15, 19 14. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: -15-And *that* **he died for all**, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again... 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

I Timothy 2: 3-6 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 **Who desires all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself **a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time.

I Timothy 4:10 10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the **Saviour of all men**, specially of those that believe.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should **taste death for every man**.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, **once for all**.

2 Peter 3:9 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**.

I John 2:2 And he (Christ) is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also **for the sins of the whole world**.

I John 4:14 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the **Saviour of the world**.

ii. All Believers in Christ are Justified

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. See also verses 16-17

Acts 2: 38-39 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."**

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name **whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

Acts 13:38-39 38 Therefore let it be known to you, men and brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and from all [the things] from which you were not able to be **justified** by the law of Moses. 39. And by him **all that believe are justified from all things**, from which ye could not be **justified** by the law of Moses.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for **salvation to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 3:21-26 21 But now God has shown us His righteousness; the law and the prophets tell us about it...**God's righteousness comes to all who believe**, just by their believing in Jesus Christ. **There is no distinction.** All have sinned and are without God's glory. They become righteous by a gift of His love, by the ransom Christ Jesus paid to free them. God set Him up publicly to pour out His blood before God to take away sin through faith, to show His righteousness...Now He wanted to show His righteousness, to be righteous Himself **and make righteous anyone who believes in Jesus.** (Beck)

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also **justified**: and whom he **justified**, them he also **glorified**. (All justified will be glorified)

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, He entered the holy place **once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

iii Condition of those who reject the gospel

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but **the wrath of God abideth on him.**

John 8:24 24 I (Jesus) said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye **shall die in your sins.**

4. The genuine gospel: Criteria for and Means of Salvation

SALVATION/JUSTIFICATION

In JESUS alone, by GRACE alone, through FAITH alone, in His BLOOD alone.

i. Justified in Jesus alone

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 **Neither is there salvation in any other:** for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1John 5:11-12 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us **eternal life, and this life is in his Son.** 12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

ii. Justified by grace alone (works excluded)

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

Ephesians 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** 9 **Not of works,** lest any man should boast.

Titus 3:4-7 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done,** but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

iii. Justified through faith alone (works excluded)

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. 9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith** without the deeds of the law.

Romans 4: 1-3 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? **2. For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.** **3.** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. (justified by faith before the law existed)

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified by the faith of Christ**, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:8, 24 8. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify the heathen through faith**, preached before **the gospel** unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed..... 24. So that the law is become our tutor *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to his mercy he saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

iv. Justified by His Blood Alone

(forgiven, imputed righteousness, cleansed, redeemed, reconciled, adopted)

Matthew 26:27-28 “And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

Romans 3:22b-25a... for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being **justified** as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.

Romans 5:8-10 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

Colossians 1:14, 20 'In Christ we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins'... 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

1 Peter 1:18-19 “Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

1 John 1:7 “...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased (ransomed) with his own blood.

5. The genuine gospel: Salvation And Its Benefits Are Gifts Of God

SALVATION A GIFT

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye **saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

JUSTIFICATION A GIFT

Romans 3:22b-25a... for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.

ADOPTIVE SONSHIP A GIFT

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them **gave he power to become the sons** of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

Romans 8:15-17 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye **have received the Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (also Galatians 3:26)

Galatians 4:4-6 4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might **receive the adoption of sons**. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

ETERNAL LIFE A GIFT

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

FORGIVENESS A GIFT

Romans 5:18 And not as through one that sinned, *so is the gift*: for the judgment *came* of one unto condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses unto justification.

Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

RIGHTEOUSNESS A GIFT

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:23-25 Now it was not written for his (Abraham's) sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be **imputed**, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.

HOLY SPIRIT A GIFT

Acts 2:38-39—Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. 39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out **the gift of the Holy Spirit**.

6. The genuine gospel produces: Assurance of Salvation

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be **saved**.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life**.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me **hath everlasting life**.

1Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and **in much assurance...**

1John 5:10 - 13 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. **11** And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life**, and this life is in his Son. **12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.** **13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

7. The genuine gospel: Requires Repentance and Faith in Conversion

Repentance From Sin:

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:19 **Repent ye therefore, and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; **but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:**

Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that **they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.**

Believing The Gospel:

Mark 1:14–15 14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing ye might have life** through his name.

Romans 3:22 Even the **righteousness of God** *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and **upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference:

Acts 13:39 And by him **all that believe are justified** from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Acts 16:31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**, and thy house.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved.**

8. The genuine gospel: results in spiritual birth i.e., being born again by the Spirit.

John 1:11-13 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: **13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

John 3:3, 5-7 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....** 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

1Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1Jn 5:1,4,18 **Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God:** and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him... 4 For whatsoever is **born of God overcometh the world:** and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith... 18 We know that **whosoever is born of God sinneth not;** but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

9. The genuine gospel: results in believers being indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:6-17 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 **But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.** 10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11 **But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you,** he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; **but ye have received the Spirit of adoption,** whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:** 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

10. The genuine gospel: Offers One Hope of Our Calling which is a Heavenly Hope

Ephesians 4:4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

Colossians 1:3-5 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints, 5 **For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;**

1Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

Old Testament Saints also have the same heavenly hope:

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will **dwelt in the house of the LORD forever.**

Psalms 73:24-25 You guide me with Your counsel, and **afterward You will take me into glory.** Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You.

Matthew 8:10-11 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11 And I say unto you, That **many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.**

Hebrews 11: 9-10, 13-16 9 By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God....** 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, **and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** 14 **For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.** 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 **But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**

B. HOW TO EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION TO ANYONE

SALVATION EXPLANATION

The gospel which Paul preached is the gospel by which we are saved. (I Cor.15:2)

1. There are three aspects of spiritual salvation in the New Testament

Salvation from:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| sins penalty – Ro.6:23, 5:16 | - Justification (past, accomplished) |
| sins power – I Cor.1:30, 6:11, Heb13:12 | - Sanctification (progressive process) |
| sins presence – Ro. 8:30, I Pe. 5:4
I Pe.1:3-4, Col.1:3-5 | - Glorification (future heavenly hope) |

2. Justification – Benefits:

Man receives:

- forgiveness of sin Ro.8:1; 5:16; Eph 1:7
- eternal life I Jn.5:11
- Christ's righteousness imputed Ro. 4:20-25
- Sonship Jn.1:12; Gal.4:4-7 Ro.8:16
- Indwelling Holy Spirit Ro. 8:9, Tit.3:4-7; Col.1:27; I Jn.5:11
- New identity & nature II Cor. 5:17
- Redemption by the blood I Peter 1:18-19, Heb. 9:12, 15
- Reconciliation by the blood II Cor. 5:19-21, Col.1:20

3. Benefits of Justifications are Gifts:

Salvation/Justification received as a gift Ro.3:24; Eph 2:7-8

- Forgiveness a gift Ro.5:15-16
- Eternal Life a gift Ro.6:23
- Righteousness a gift Ro.5:17
- Sonship rights a gift John 1:12 Ro.8:15-17 Gal.3:26
- Holy Spirit a gift Acts 2:38; 8:20; 10:45; 11:17
- Jesus a gift II Cor.13:5 Col.1:27

4. Means of Justification - What we saved or justified by:

- JESUS ALONE,
- by GRACE ALONE,
- through FAITH ALONE,
- in Christ's BLOOD ALONE.

- salvation in Jesus Alone Acts 4: 10-12
- by Grace Alone Ro.3:24, Tit.3:7
- through Faith Alone Gal 3:8, 24,26, Ro.5:1, Gal.2:16
- in Christ's Redeeming Blood Alone 1 Peter 1:18-19

5. Role of our achievement in justification – nil:

(Grace vs Merit) (Faith vs Works) (Gift vs Debt)

- Titus 3:5, Ro.4:1-7, Ro.11:6, Eph.2:8-9, Ro.5:16-17, Acts 2:38, Ro.6:23

6. What must a person do to be saved/justified?

Repent and Believe the gospel Mk.1:14, 15

All must repent - Acts 17:30

All must believe – Jn.3:36

7. Can we have assurance of personal salvation in this life?

Jn.3:36, 5:4, 6:47; I Jn.5:9-13

C. WATCHTOWER OBJECTIONS TO JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

James 2:20 - 26 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 **Seest thou** how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 **Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**

This passage serves as a needed correction. Many people say they have faith, which their works deny. James concludes that dead or fake faith cannot save anyone and that genuine faith always leads to good fruit/works. He is right on both counts. But what about the apparent disconnect between Paul and James on the subject of Abraham's justification.

Comparing James with Paul on justification

James writes: Was not Abraham our father **justified by works**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? James 2:21

Paul writes: What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? **2.** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; **but not before God.** **3.** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. **Rom. 4:1-3**

How can we harmonize James and Paul on the subject of justification?

It is critical to note that Abraham was justified by faith before God not only prior to the giving of the law but also prior to offering Isaac on the alter, and actually even before Isaac was conceived. **Genesis. 14:6**

The solution then is that Paul was talking about **justification before God**, while James was talking about **justification before men**. *“I will show thee my faith by my works,”* says James. So faith is justified in the eyes of those that behold us by our works;” but Paul speaks of justification in the sight of God, who justifies those that believe in Jesus, purely on account of the redemption that is in him.” **Thus we see that persons are justified before God by faith, but faith is justified before men by works.**

CONCLUSION: Genuine faith is invisible to all but God. Visible works alone can demonstrate to others that a person is truly justified. Works alone can attest to whether

faith is genuine i.e., saving or justifying faith. However works are not the basis of salvation but rather the product of salvation.