

Vicarious Sacrifice: *Chashav & Logízomai*: God's Righteousness Is Credited to the Believer's Account at Salvation, Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3, 5; *Dikaíosúnē*: the Integrity of God & the Thinking of a Judge; Justification by Faith, Rom 4:5; Gal 2:16; the Character of God: the Divine Attributes of the Trinity

In Paul's quote of Genesis 15:6, the Greek word he uses to translate *chashav* is the aorist passive indicative of the verb **λογίζομαι (*logízomai*)**: "in commercial dealings, to credit something to a person's account."

The aorist tense is culminative indicating that salvation is credited to Abram's account and emphasizes the result of that action. The passive voice means he received the action of having his saving faith credited to his account, the indicative mood establishing this action as a historical fact.

This transaction is said to result in the imputation of **δικαιοσύνη (*dikaíosúnē*)**, the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew **שֶׁטְהָאָה (*sethaqah*)**, each translated "righteousness."

From the two verses, here are the expanded translations:

Genesis 15:6 - Abram had believed in the Lord and it was credited to his account as righteousness.

Romans 4:3 - Abram had been previously caused to believe and it was credited to his account as righteousness. (EXT)

Our relative righteousness before salvation does not measure up to divine righteousness. Faith in Christ removes the sins that had been judged on the cross and they are forgiven at salvation.

Removal of sin from the person's ledger allows the justice of God to credit to the new believer's account divine righteousness. This imputation is also noted in other passages:

1 Corinthians 1:30 - From the source of the Father, you keep on being in union with Christ Jesus, Who became unto us wisdom from God: righteousness [the imputation of divine righteousness at salvation] and sanctification [set apart for special service] and redemption [emancipation from the slave market of sin].

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God has made Jesus Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, for the purpose that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The imputation of divine righteousness to the believer results in justification which is also found in Romans 4. The word "justifies" is translated from the noun **δικαιοσύνη (*dikaíosúnē*)** which is also found in verse 3 and translated there by the word "righteousness."

It is important to note that the word *dikaíosúnē* represents the integrity of God with emphasis on His righteousness and His justice. Righteousness includes the principles that comprise absolute truth while justice enforces compliance. The two together make up divine integrity.

Therefore, Abram's faith in Christ allowed divine righteousness to demand that justice impute divine righteousness to him. Once done, Abram was justified before the Supreme Court of Heaven.

Human righteousness does not measure up to divine righteousness, but faith in Christ results in the unbeliever being transformed into membership in the royal family of God by means of justification.

Romans 4:5 - But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him Who justifies the unrighteous, his faith receives credit for the imputation of divine righteousness.

Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by works of the Law but by faith in Christ Jesus, even we [Peter and Paul] have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no member of the human race be justified.

At salvation, the justice of God imputed divine righteousness to the new believer which results in his justification. This is a “forensic justification,” meaning that it transpired as a result of a judicial decision from the Supreme Court of Heaven.

A judicial imputation occurs when the justice of God imputes what is not antecedently one’s own. Therefore there is no affinity, no home or target, between what is imputed and the recipient. Therefore the emphasis in judicial imputations is the integrity of God.

Judicial imputations include our personal sins to Christ and God’s perfect righteousness to believers at salvation.

Justification means that the believer stands vindicated before the Supreme Court of Heaven.

The grace pipeline is established between the justice of God and imputed righteousness in the believer through which flows logistics, blessings, and Nike Awards.

5. **Character of God:** This term refers to the divine attributes of the Trinity none of which is possessed by any member of the human race with the exception of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union.

When the Bible speaks of the oneness of God, it is in no way contradictory to the concept of the Trinity. The oneness of God refers to His essence. God *is* one in essence. God *has* one essence. This means that all the characteristics of divine essence are resident in each member of the Godhead. Sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, immutability, and veracity are possessed equally by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In their essence They are absolutely the same. However, this is the only way in which God is one. Since each person in the Trinity possesses identical essence, these characteristics are what unite the Three as one God.¹

Romans 1:18 - The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

v. 19 - because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

v. 20 - Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (NASB)

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Divine Essence*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1989), 2–3.

God's righteousness demands that every person be condemned at birth. No association with mankind can be allowed until divine integrity is satisfied. This required that God provide a solution that would satisfy the standards of His integrity.

