

Question – Is it correct to say that the resurrection was an indication of God's approval of Jesus' death on the cross as making atonement for the sins of all believers for all time?

Answer – Yes.

Mayhue/MacArthur, Biblical Doctrine, 320 – “Christ's resurrection achieved the following vast and glorious results: ... 6. **Proof that the Father accepted the atoning work of Christ in his sacrificial death on the cross (Rom. 4:25)**”

Grudem, Systematic Theology, 615 – “Paul says that Jesus ‘was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification’ (Rom. 4:25). **When Christ was raised from the dead, it was God's declaration of approval of Christ's work of redemption.** Because Christ ‘humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross’ (Phil. 2:8), ‘God has highly exalted him ...’ (Phil. 2:9). By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father was in effect saying that he approved of Christ's work of suffering and dying for our sins, that his work was completed, and that Christ no longer had any need to remain dead. There was no penalty left to pay for sin, no more wrath of God to bear, no more guilt or liability to punishment – all had been completely paid for, and no guilt remained. **In the resurrection, God was saying to Christ, ‘I approve of what you have done, and you find favor in my sight.’**”

(cont.) This explains how Paul can say that Christ was ‘raised for our justification’ (Rom. 4:25). If God ‘raised us up with him’ (Eph. 2:6), then, by virtue of our union with Christ, God's declaration of approval of Christ is also his declaration of approval of us. When the Father in essence said to Christ, ‘All the penalty for sins has been paid and I find you not guilty but righteous in my sight,’ he was thereby making the declaration that would also apply to us once we trusted in Christ for our salvation. In this way, Christ's resurrection also gave final proof that he had earned our justification.”

Schreiner, Romans, 244 (re: Romans 4:23-25) – “To say that Jesus was raised because of our justification is to say that **his resurrection authenticates and confirms that our justification has been secured.** The resurrection of Christ constitutes evidence that his work on our behalf has been completed.”

Hendriksen, Romans, 161 (re: Romans 4:23-25) – “‘He was delivered up *for*, or *on account of*, our trespasses’ *looks backward* and means that our trespasses made it necessary for him to be delivered up, while ‘(he) was raised *for*, or *on account of*, our justification’ *looks forward* and indicates that he was raised in order to assure us that in the sight of God we are indeed without sin. In other words, Christ's resurrection has as its *purpose* to bring to light the fact that all those who acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Savior have entered into a state of righteousness in the eyes of God. **The Father, by raising Jesus from the dead, assures us that the atoning sacrifice has been accepted; hence, our sins are forgiven.**”

Sproul, Romans: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith, 135 (re: Romans 4:23-25) – “Christ laid down his life for his sheep on the cross. He offered himself in his perfect righteousness and took upon himself the sin of his people. If Jesus had stayed dead, we would have no justification, but when the Father raised the Son from the dead, he said to the world, ‘I accept this payment for the debtors who cannot pay.’ **The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not simply for his vindication; it is for our justification, because it is God's demonstration to his unjust people that he accepts the payment in full for the moral debt they have incurred.**”