CONTENTS

A	BOU'	T THIS	S ENDEAVOR	ix
	The	need f	or this endeavor	X
	The	standa	rd of our evaluation	xii
	The ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee			
	Our	Our view of history		
	Our attitude, intention, and hope			xviii
	Our apology			
	Who	we ar	e	XX
PRIMARY SOURCES				xxi
	Autl	nors an	d texts	xxi
	Coll	ections	, editions, and translations	xxix
1	,		Y FAITH TO CHRIST EOUSNESS FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION:	
	OUR EVALUATIVE STANDARD			1
	1.0	Introd	duction	1
	1.1	Justifi	cation by faith as revealed in the Scriptures	6
		1.1.1	A brief presentation of God's complete salvation	6
		1.1.2	The purpose of justification	8
		1.1.3	The two aspects of justification	10
		1.1.4	Objective justification by faith: an overview	11
		1.1.5	Justification by faith through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus	13
		1.1.6	Faith being produced by the transfusion of Christ	16

		1.1.7	Faith ushering the believers into an organic union with Christ	19		
		1.1.8	The result of justification	25		
	1.2	Justifi	cation by faith in the ministry of Watchman Nee			
		and V	Vitness Lee	27		
		1.2.1	The basic truth concerning justification by faith	27		
		1.2.2	Justification in God's complete salvation	29		
		1.2.3	The intrinsic significance of justification by faith	33		
		1.2.4	Assurance, security, and boldness before God	39		
	1.3	Clarif	ications on objective justification	43		
		1.3.1	Objective justification is not forgiveness of sins, nor is it applied in baptism	44		
		1.3.2	Objective justification is not subjective justification	48		
		1.3.3	Objective justification is not to be confused with reward based on works	51		
		1.3.4	Objective justification is not based on Christ's righteousness but on Christ as righteousness	54		
2	JUSTIFICATION:					
	CONTEMPORARY UNDERSTANDINGS AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW 57					
	2.0		luction	57		
	2.1		Contemporary understandings of justification by faith			
	2,1	2.1.1		57 58		
			On the assurance and security of salvation	59		
		2.1.3	On the frequency of justification by faith	60		
	2.2	Histor	rical overview	60		
3	FROM ASSUMED BLESSING TO BASIC UNDERSTANDING:					
J	JUSTIFICATION IN THE CHURCH FATHERS 69					
	3.0	Introd	roduction			
	3.1 Common themes in the patristic era		non themes in the patristic era	74		
		3.1.1	Early misunderstandings	75		
		3.1.2	Justification as the forgiveness of past sins	79		
		3.1.3	Justification by baptism	85		
		3.1.4	Justification by faith apart from works	88		

		3.1.5	An illustration of justification by faith apart from	
			works: the thief on the cross	97
		3.1.6	Justification as God's gift in grace	102
		3.1.7	Justification resulting in the believers' certainty	
			and even boasting	105
		3.1.8	Justification not being secure	108
	3.2		cation in Augustine	110
		3.2.1	The Pelagian background	111
		3.2.2	The need for justification	113
		3.2.3	Justification by grace through faith	115
		3.2.4	Justification without preceding merit	117
		3.2.5	Justification as an event	120
		3.2.6	Justification as being made righteous	122
		3.2.7	Justification issuing in works of love	124
		3.2.8	Rejoicing in our justification	127
	3.3		nd of justification in the patristic period:	
			cond Council of Orange (529)	127
	3.4	Conclu	asion	134
4	PRO	GRESS	AND DECLINE:	
	JUST	'IFICA'	ΓΙΟΝ IN THE MEDIEVAL WEST	137
	4.0	Introd	uction	137
	4.1	Justifie	ed freely by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ	140
		4.1.1	Bernard of Clairvaux: justification among	
			the monastic writers	141
		4.1.2	Thomas Aquinas: justification among the schoolmen	1.45
		112		145
	4.2	4.1.3	Jean Gerson: justification among the mystics	147
	4.2		mergence of a theology of justification	150
	4.3	*	cation and union with Christ	157
	4.4		acramental context of justification	163
	4.5	,		171
	4.6			181
			Against the Pelagians	181
	4.5	4.6.2	Against the sacrament of penance	185
	4.7	Conclu	asion	188

viii CONTENTS

5	THE GREAT BEGINNING OF RECOVERY:			
	JUSTIFICATION ACCORDING TO MARTIN LUTHER			
	5.0	Introduction	191	
	5.1	Sin	193	
	5.2	The law and the knowledge of sin	200	
	5.3	Anfechtung	204	
	5.4	The righteousness of God	210	
	5.5	Justification: faith, Christ, and imputation	214	
	5.6	Faith as righteousness	230	
	5.7	Assurance in justification	239	
	5.8	Conclusion	246	
EPILOGUE TO PART 1		251		
B	BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES		255	
SECONDARY SOURCES		269		
INDEXES			275	

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible Recovery Version (Anaheim, CA: Living Stream Ministry, 2003).

Asterisks (*) in the text indicate historical figures important to this study, and biographical information for each is included in the Biographical Entries at the back of this volume.