

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Wed. Eve. Bible Study - 12/2/15

Great Words Of The Bible

JUSTIFICATION

Luke 18: 9-14 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' ¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Romans 5: 1-11 Peace and Hope

⁵ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The question asked in Job 25:4 is still being asked today, and the glorious message of the gospel is that God has provided a perfect and an entirely satisfactory way of justifying the ungodly (Romans 3:26; 4:5).

1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF JUSTIFICATION?

Look up Acts 13:38-39 "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.", and notice that through believing we receive "forgiveness of sins" (verse 38), and we are "justified" (verse 39). Justification is more than forgiveness; it is to be cleared of all blame and to be free from every charge. In an earthly court, a judge cannot both forgive a

man and justify him at the same time, for if he forgives him then the man must be guilty and therefore he cannot be justified; on the other hand, if he justifies him, he does not need forgiveness. God, however, undertakes both to forgive the sin and to justify the sinner; that is, to forgive the guilty and condemned sinner and to place him in a new position where there is no charge against him at all (Romans 8:1).

2. HOW ARE WE JUSTIFIED?

The Word of God makes it clear that no one is justified by his own effort or works - look up **Romans 3:20** "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."; Galatians 2:16 and 3:11. This was the fatal error made by the Pharisee in our Lord's parable - Luke 18:11-12. No works of ours, no good resolutions or reformation can justify us or contribute one little bit to our justification. It is as though a murderer, feeling sorry for his crime, would do all the good deeds possible and would imagine that by thus doing he would be justified in the eyes of the law and saved from the executioner. All the good deeds in the world could do nothing to justify him. Likewise, all the good deeds of a sinner can do nothing towards his justification. In the New Testament, justification is presented to us in seven aspects.

1. **We are justified by GOD: the AUTHOR of Justification.** Look up **Romans 3:26** "he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."; 4:5 and 8:33, where we are told that God is the giver of justification.
2. **We are justified by GRACE; the PRINCIPLE of Justification.** This means that we are justified without any merit on our part - look up **Titus 3:7** "so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." and **Romans 3:24** "and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.". The word "freely" denotes that there is nothing in us to deserve it, and no means whereby we can earn it.
3. **We are justified by BLOOD: the GROUND of Justification.** A holy God must have a righteous basis on which to justify ungodly sinners, and this is found in the blood of the cross. Man, as a condemned sinner, can only atone for his sin by paying the death penalty (Romans 6:23). As "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23), God's law demands that all must die. God so loves us, however, that through the death of His Son, who took our place upon the cross, all the righteous demands of the law against the sinner have been fully met, and all the claims of God's holiness have been satisfied.
4. **We are justified by FAITH: the CONDITION of Justification.** The one human condition for being justified is believing on the Lord Jesus Christ - look up **Romans 3:22-28** "²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance

he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. ²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. ²⁹Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.”, and compare Romans 5:1; 4:5 and Galatians 2:16.

5. **We are justified by RESURRECTION: the GUARANTEE of Justification.** In Romans 4:25 “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” we are told that the resurrection of the Lord Jesus was the visible proof that God was satisfied with His finished work, that justification is available for all men, and that all believers are justified.
6. **We are justified by WORKS: the EVIDENCE of Justification.** If we compare Romans 3:20 “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.” and James 2:24 “You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.”, we are faced with what appears to be a contradiction, but there is no contradiction - see what James 2:20 says “You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?”. Works are the evidence of faith. Wherever there is real faith it will be followed by works - see James 2:18 “But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”
7. **We are justified by EXPERIENCE: the RESULTS of Justification.** In other words, certain wonderful things take place as the result of our justification. What are these?

3. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION?

There are seven of them enumerated in Romans 5:1-11. The chapter begins, “Therefore since we have been justified (having been counted righteous)”...□what?

1. **“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (verse 1). “We were God’s enemies” (verse 10), but at Calvary our Lord Jesus Christ reconciled us to God (Romans 5:10), and made peace (Colossians 1:20).
2. **“We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand”** (verse 2). This means that being justified we have an entrance, or a welcome, into the presence of God -□compare John 10:9 and Hebrews 10:19.
3. **“And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”** (verse 2). The word “hope” does not imply uncertainty; it refers to the assurance which we have that God will consummate His purpose in and for all whom He justifies. It means - Colossians 3:4 and Titus 3:7!

4. **"We rejoice in our sufferings"** (verse 3). Four reasons are given in verses 4 and 5. This means that when trials and testings come we are able to say - 2 Corinthians 4:17! □ Look up Acts 14:22 **"strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said."**; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10; 6:4-10 and 1 Thessalonians 3:3.
5. **"God has poured out his love into our hearts"** (verse 5). This is His love in four dimensions - Ephesians 3:17-18 **"so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,"**; and with His love in our hearts, we love each other (1 John 3:14).
6. **"The Holy Spirit...□whom he has given us"** (verse 5). The moment God justifies us we become indwelt by the Holy Spirit - compare John 14:16-17 **"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you"**; Romans 8:9 and 1 Corinthians 6:19.
7. **"We also rejoice in God"** (verse 11). Literally, "we exult in God." How wonderful this is! We, who were condemned, lost sinners, now by His grace, being justified, rejoice in Him!