

BIBLE JUSTIFICATION

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To “Justify” our selves, is a very common practice for the human race. We either try to blame others, or we excuse ourselves for doing things, or not doing them. So we find Justification for our actions when we can. But is that good enough for God? Can we “Justify” ourselves, or does God have to Justify us? What do we mean when we talk of Bible Justification? It is actually a Legal term, and to put it simply, means that when we genuinely confess our sins and turn away from them, God forgives us those sins, and in God’s eyes we are then “Just as if we had never sinned”.

That is why God could say of king David, (a man who was guilty of the most terrible sins,) “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own Heart, which shall fulfil all MY Will”. (Acts 13:22. last part.). Take the time to read Psa 51; and see for yourself, that David was genuinely sorry for his sins, - God forgave him, - Justified him, - and David was Just as if he had Never Sinned. Praise God, that you and I can be “Justified” as well!

When we are “Justified” is this a fluctuating experience, or is it a permanent thing? Does it need to be done every day? To get our answers to those questions, we will look to our Bibles for guidance.

Rom 1:16,17

“For I am not ashamed of The Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from Faith to Faith: as it is written, the Just [or those who are Justified by God] shall live by Faith”.

Paul was not ashamed, or reluctant to share his Faith in a risen Lord to men and women of all races. He was following the instruction of Jesus. (See Matt 28:19,20). To teach all who would listen to him that, Jesus Christ had died for their sins. He knew that God revealed His Righteousness, (Goodness), to mankind by making it possible for the Just, (the Justified, those who really believed and trusted in Jesus), to live Eternally – by having genuine Faith in Jesus their Saviour and in His sacrifice on the cruel Cross for them.

Lk 18:10-14

“Two men went up into the Temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, [a Religious leader, and very much respected because of his position], and the other a Publican. [a tax collector, usually a Jew working for the hated Romans, and himself very much hated by his fellow countrymen]. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God”, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this Publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess”.

“And the Publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto Heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his House [the grave, See Job 17:13), “Justified” rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted”.

Jesus told of two very different types of men, one who praised himself up to God, a self-righteous religious leader who depended on his own good deeds to save him; and the other who depended completely on God to Save him by God’s Grace.

One writer explained this situation, this way:-

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The Pharisee

Was full of self commendation.
Found only Good in himself.
Was a very proud man.
Compared himself with others.
Judged the other.
Thought to make God his debtor.
Was self-justified. (which was useless)

The Publican

Was full of self condemnation.
Found only evil in himself.
Was a very Humble man.
Compared himself with Jesus Christ.
Judged himself.
Recognised his debt to God.
Was Divinely-Justified.

I'm sure you see the difference. Jesus said of the Publican, that he was "Justified", that is, he was "Just as if he had never sinned". That's how I want to be when I am Judged in the "Investigative" Judgment, - how about you?

Rom 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death; but the Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord".

Wages are something we earn, whereas, a Gift is something we are Given, it is something that is not earned. Sinners "earn" Death. Forgiven sinners are given Eternal Life. - it cannot be "earned". But Salvation does have a "Cost". IT "Cost" God the Life of His Son - it "Cost" Jesus a great deal when HE became man, so that HE could die for us. And it could "Cost" us those whom we thought were our friends, or our family, our jobs and position in society. Yes! There is a "Cost" involved in following Jesus Christ our Lord, but "Salvation" is still a free "Gift" from God. Praise God!

Rom 3:10,11

"As it is written, there is none Righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God".

These verses are telling us that not one person is "Righteous" in his / her own Right. All our "Righteousness" comes to us from God. And none of us fully understands how completely we have to put God first in everything we say, think and do. You and I may never be called upon to offer our son as a sacrifice to God, as Abraham did in his day, but we must be prepared to, if God requires that of us. - can you fully understand that?

Remember that in these verses Paul was writing to the believers of his day; and he is also speaking to all believers who live today.

Rom 5:12

"Wherefore, as by One man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so "Death" passed upon all men, for that all hath sinned":

Because of the sin of Adam, we who are his descendants are weak, and because of our own choice; on our own, - we are without Jesus, and compulsive sinners, so we all deserve to die for our own sins, (not because of the sin of Adam). If we die because of sin, it will be because of our own sin, and that is only because we have not asked God to forgive us our sins. In other words, if we miss out on Salvation, it will not be God's fault, but because of our own choice. But we cannot finish on that note, can we?

Same Chapter, verses 18,19

"Therefore as by the offence of "one" Judgment came upon all men to Condemnation; even so be the Righteousness of "one" [Jesus] the free gift came upon all men unto Justification of Life. For as by "One" Man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of "One" shall many be made Righteous".

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Praise God for that! Can you see the fairness of God? Adam sinned, and then we followed on ourselves to sin, but because Jesus never sinned, HE has made it possible for us to be made “just as if we had never sinned”.

Same Chapter Verse 10

“For if, when we were enemies, we were Reconciled to God by the death of His dear Son, much more, being Reconciled, we shall be Saved by His Life”.

The Father and Son loved us so much, that even when we were enemies, (disobedient to God), the death of Jesus still paid the price, and Reconciled us to God. God could not be fairer than that. Notice that all three tenses, (past, present and future), are registered in this verse.

Again from the same Chapter, Verse 1

“Therefore being Justified by Faith, we have “Peace with God”, through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

What a wonderful thing it is to be Reconciled with God, and have “Peace with God again. To be again, “just as if we had never sinned”. What a relief, just to know, that all the provision for our “Peace with God” is made possible by Jesus. - Not something that we can do, or have to do, for ourselves!

1 Jn 3:1,2

“Behold, what manner of Love The Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons [and Daughters, see 2 Cor 6:18] of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, When HE shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as HE is”.

John wanted us to know that when we are “Justified with God”, we become His Sons and Daughters, and that “Justification”, as we have seen is taught in The Scriptures, is an instantaneous experience, which the sinner enjoys when he/she has genuinely confessed, and turned away from the sinful experience.

YES! While living on this old world of sin, we are Now [at this time] the Sons and Daughters of God. Would you have made that possible for your enemies to be forgiven freely of all their debts? Well that’s what God has done for us, isn’t it?

Rom 9:31,32

“But Israel, which followed after the Law of Righteousness, hath not attained to the Law of Righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by Faith, but as it were by the Works of the Law. For they [the Israelites] stumbled at that stumbling-stone”;

Please don’t make the same mistake that Israel of old made. “Righteousness”, (being justified with God) is Not something that we can do for ourselves. Salvation is not by our own “Works”, - but by what Jesus has already done for us.

Rom 5:8,9

“But God Commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now Justified by His Blood, we shall be Saved from wrath through Him”.

The Bible makes this Truth very plain. Justification comes about through The Blood that Jesus shed on The Cross for us.

Rom 3:24

“Being Justified freely by His [God’s] Grace, through the Redemption that is “in” Christ Jesus”:

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Now we learn, that we are “Justified by God’s Grace. Again let me state clearly that it is nothing we can do for ourselves.

Matt 5:48

“Be ye therefore Perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is Perfect”.

No matter how you look at this verse, it is saying loud and clear, - that we must be as Perfect as our Heavenly Father. And HE is “Perfectly, Perfect. How can we be “Perfectly Perfect”? Only when God Justifies us, can we take on The Perfection of The Father (we cannot do that for ourselves, - that is The Gift of God). - God makes it Possible. – How many ways can we say it?

God would never ask us to do something that is “impossible” for us to do.

Acts 13:38,39

“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man[Jesus] is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by Him All that Believe are Justified from all THINGS, from which ye could Not be Justified by the Law of Moses”.

The ceremonial law of Moses, had the blood of bulls and goats, which was to cleanse the earthly sanctuary. But the cleansing of that sanctuary was made possible, because the blood of these animals pointed forward to the Blood shed by Jesus on the Cross, at a time in the future.

But as Paul said, (see, Heb 9:12,14). “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own Blood ... having obtained Eternal Redemption for us How much more shall The Blood of Jesus Christ, Who through The Eternal Spirit, offered Himself without Spot [stain of sin] to God”.

You can see from these verses, that the blood of animals could not obtain Redemption for us, (the blood of these animals pointed forward to The Blood which Jesus would shed in the Future), but The Blood of Jesus could, and does; Save us from our sins, now.

Rom 3:20

“Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be Justified in His sight: for by The Law is the knowledge of sin”.

Keeping The Law of God, (The Ten Commandments) never could, and never will Justify the people of God. That would be “Legalism”. (Believing that we are Saved by what we have done). We have found that the only way that we can be Justified is by God, through Jesus Christ. The role of God’s Ten Commandments is to inform us of what constitutes sin.

Same Chapter Verse 28

“Therefore we conclude that a man is Justified by Faith without the deeds of the Law”.

There you have it again, we are Justified by Faith in Jesus Christ, and on what HE has done for us, not by Commandment keeping, or doing anything else for that matter - that would be Legalism, or would constitute Salvation by works, and therefore Salvation would not be by Faith!

Rom 6:14,15

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the Law, but Under Grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the Law, but under Grace? God Forbid!”:

This text is saying that sin should not have control over us. - We are not under the Law, but under Grace. That does not mean however, that we can do anything and everything wrong, and still expect to be Saved.

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The great reformer Dr. Martin Luther had this to say; “If a Judge pardons and releases a thief who has deserved the gallows, this is abrogating the Law through Faith. If the thief were now to rashly conclude, and boast: “I am now under Grace, and may do as I please, for now there is no Law of which to be afraid”. - Who would put up with such a fellow?” I love his comment, don't you?

Luther's point of course was that, the moment we commit another sin, our previous Justification has been cancelled, and we are again in need of God's Grace, and Justification.

This has answered one more of the questions at the beginning of the lesson, - “Is Justification a fluctuating experience, or is it permanent? The obvious answer is - it is “Fluctuating”. But the good news is, that God does have Faithful people who will be Saved by Grace.

Rev 19:8

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the Righteousness of the Saints”.

The book of Revelation is a symbolic Book, which means that it is written in symbols. What does that mean? It means that, “her” is Symbolic of the “wife or bride of The Lamb” [Jesus] (verse 7). And that is referring to, or is “symbolic” of, God's Faithful people, who are joined to Jesus in a Marriage Union. Read that in 2 Cor 11:2. “For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy: for I have Espoused [Married] you to One Husband, that I may present you as a chaste Virgin to Christ”. Also read Jer 3:14, to learn more about that “Marriage” connection of God with His people.

The “fine linen” is already explained; it is that God's people put on the robe of Christ's Righteousness instead of their own faulty righteousness, - how else could Jesus present us as being pure and blameless? (See Jude 24). Isa 64:6, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our Righteousnesses are as filthy rags; ...”.

Isa 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in The Lord, ... for HE hath clothed me with the garments of Salvation, HE hath covered me with the Robe of [Christ's] Righteousness, ...”.

Zech 3:3,4

“Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the Angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him’. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment”.

Having checked the Hebrew word “beged” that is translated as garments, I found that the same word is also translated in other verses quoted above, as robe, clothing, rag, and raiment.

So what else can we conclude from these verses, but that our own “righteousness” is as filthy rags. God sees that, and HE has made it possible for our filthy rags to be taken from us. It is then that Jesus clothes us with His Own Perfect Robe of Righteousness. It is then that God's Saints can say that they have “the perfect Righteousness of Jesus Christ. At that point in time, we are “just as if we had never sinned”. Instead, we're clothed in Christ's Fine Linen Clean and White.

Rom 5:8

“But God Commended His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”.

This verse calls us “Sinners”, and verse 10 describes us as “enemies”, so for us to be unforgiven sinners makes us at the same time, as being enemies of God. But the Good News is that Jesus Christ takes away all that enmity, and makes us instead, Friends of God.

Jude 24,25

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“Now unto Him [Jesus] that is able to keep [save] you from falling [into satan’s traps], and to present you faultless [just as if you had never sinned] before the presence of His [The Father’s] Glory with exceeding Joy. To the only Wise God our Saviour [Jesus], be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and forever”. Amen.

We could spend a whole day just on these verses really, but suffice in this lesson to make the point, that Jesus presents those former sinners whom HE has “Justified” and made “clean” to His Father, (when His Father is judging whether they are worthy of Salvation), – “Just as if they had never sinned”. No wonder we Love Jesus. No wonder HE is given Glory and Majesty, and Dominion over those former sinners, whom HE has Saved. Thank You Jesus, for the Salvation that You made possible on the Cross on Calvary.

Justification is a free Gift, - we receive the Righteousness of Jesus, in exchange for the unrighteousnesses that we have confessed. Jesus made the “provision” for our Salvation when HE died on the Cross, but HE didn’t do it “all” for us on the Cross as some teach. We still have a part to play, we still have to Accept that “provision”, we must still repent of [turn away from] our sins and, confess them, so that Jesus can “Cover” them, that we will be “Just as if we had never sinned”.

We must Believe in Jesus, as Jn 3:16 tells us. “For God so Loved the world, that HE gave His only begotten [or Chief] Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not [will not] perish, but have Everlasting Life”.

Time for our review, to find out what we have learned in this lesson :-

1. That mankind always tries to “Justify” himself for his own sinful actions.
2. That one man (Adam) introduced sin into this world.
3. That one Man [Jesus] defeated sin in this world.
4. That only God can truly Justify the sinner.
5. That when God “Justifies” a sinner, - That sinner is then “just as if he had never sinned”.
6. That Jesus Loved us so much, that HE Reconciled us to The Father- even while we were His enemies. “That is real Love”!
7. That “Justification” makes it possible for us to become Sons and Daughters of God.
8. That we cannot be “Justified” with God because of our good deeds, - or by keeping God’s Ten Commandments.
9. That Bible Justification is not something that we can do for ourselves, - only our Precious Jesus can “Justify” us and have us ready for Heaven.
10. That we are “Justified” by having Faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, and our Saviour.

What a wonderful Subject we have learned about in this lesson. I can’t stop myself from praising God for His Love, and all that HE has done for us. One thing is for sure, I want to be “Justified” by my God, and I hope you do as well. Do you have any questions? Very good then. In our next meeting, we are going to look into a similar Subject, that is “Bible Sanctification”, - you won’t want to miss out on that. Till then, may God bless and keep you and those you love, in His love and care. ‘Bye for now. I look forward to seeing you soon.

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