

Romans 3:23-28, 4:3-5

GOSPEL DEFINED

Justification

Do you remember the feelings you had as a child when you had been caught doing something wrong? Maybe you had to wait in a chair or sit on your bed. What went through your mind while you were waiting for your impending trial with your parents? If you were anything like me, you worked up your case. When your parents came in, you wanted to justify yourself. To justify is often used when we try to show that we aren't guilty. We don't want to face a penalty for our actions, so we justify ourselves. God's word says that we are all guilty before God's law, and in and of ourselves we can do nothing to change that. But, the gospel defined shows us an amazing truth from God. He offers justification for the guilty. But, what does that mean?

RIGHTEOUS: WE AREN'T. GOD IS.

Our biggest need is to _____ with God's law.

Our biggest difficulty is trying to get right with God _____.

JUSTIFIED: GOD OFFERS. WE ACCEPT.

Justification = _____

God offers justification because of His _____. (Rom. 3:24)

God offers justification by His _____. (Rom. 5:9)

God offers justification through _____. (Rom. 3:28, Rom. 4:5)

God offers justification in _____. (Gal. 2:17-20)

UNITED: SINNER. INNOCENT.

We are _____ as righteous as Jesus Christ.

We _____ as righteous as Jesus Christ.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

In your understanding, what is required for man to have a right relationship with God?

Read Romans 3:9-12. What do these passages tell us is true about man's righteousness? Now read Romans 3:19-20. Can a person ever be justified (declared righteous) by obeying the law? What does God's law do for us?

Read Romans 3:21-24. What is the "righteousness apart from law"? How does a person gain this righteousness?

Romans 3 makes it clear that Christ alone is our righteousness. However, we often feel that we need to add our own "acts of righteousness" to the Gospel to be accepted by God. What are some examples of this in your own life? How should the doctrine of justification change this perspective?

Why is it true that when God looks at those who have trusted Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sin and the hope of eternal life, God sees his Son's perfect righteousness now as theirs?

What is the difference between justification and forgiveness?

How would you explain the difference between being moral and being a Christian to someone who thinks being good makes them acceptable to God?

How would you explain "justification by faith" to someone who has never been to church before?