

**“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Matthew 7:13, 14

It is all too common in educational circles for students to cheat; and sometimes, these students get caught and are given a failing grade. Surprisingly, even though the student knows that a wrong was clearly committed, it is human nature to want to justify the action. “The professor didn’t give me enough time to write the paper.” “If he hadn’t left his paper wide open, I wouldn’t have looked.” “It’s only one homework assignment...what’s the big deal?” However, in its true definition, to “justify” something means to prove it to be just, valid, right...to declare free of blame, to absolve. To “justify” something that is clearly in violation of established rules will never make it right. To justify a wrong will never erase it. To justify cheating is failure on many levels...failure to complete the work as expected, failure in living up to the expectations of the teachers, failure in potential, failure in self esteem and mental strength. The result, which is clearly justified, is failure on the assignment.

As sinners, we know that our past is filled with justifications for our actions. As much as we may want to purify our sins and make them seem O.K., we simply cannot do it. But, through Jesus Christ, not only are we forgiven of past sin, but we can claim righteousness and receive full credit for being LIKE CHRIST. Through our Savior, we get a perfect score and then by grace He adds extra credit to this divine peace.

**Dear Lord Jesus,**

**I recognize that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose again. Right now I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior and accept your free gift of eternal life. Amen.**

How does it work? How can we pray a simple prayer like the one above and become saved and have eternal life? The prayer can be as simple as; **“Jesus, I accept you as my Savior.”**

Indeed, Jesus says in John Chapter 3 verse 16; “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” All that is required of us is to **believe in Him**.

As we have learned in previous lessons, when we accept Jesus, at that instance, a spirit is born in us. Jesus states in John 3, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Why is this new birth necessary? It is because of the sins of Adam. In order to understand how all of this works we must

study **Romans Chapter 5**. This is the chapter on the concept of Justification. In preparation for this class also read Romans chapter 3 and chapter 4.

In the New Bible Dictionary, 2nd edition, justification means **“to Paul, God’s act of remitting the sins of guilty people, and accounting them righteous, freely, by His grace, through faith in Christ, on the ground, not of their own works, but of the representative law-keeping and redemptive blood-shedding of the Lord Jesus on their behalf.”** The basic meaning is to declare righteousness. Justification is a legal a—an act between man/woman and God. It is legal in the sense that a marriage is legal. It is legal in the

sense that a judge declares someone innocent or guilty. In this case, God is the Judge and he declares the believing sinner righteous. It is the justification for being born again and creating in us a new spirit.

In Paul Enns book, The **Moody Handbook of Theology**, justification is defined. “Justification comes from a Greek concept meaning ‘to declare righteous’. It is a legal act wherein God pronounces that the believing sinner has been credited with all the virtues of Jesus Christ. Whereas forgiveness is the negative aspect of salvation meaning the subtraction of human sin, justification is the positive aspect meaning the addition of divine righteousness.”

1. Justification is a gift from God. Read Romans 3:24. “...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...”
  - 1.1. Justification takes place the moment we become born again. Read Romans 4:2. “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.”
2. Christians of all ages, no matter who they are or where they live, are declared righteous. They are innocent of all charges that would be otherwise justly brought against them in not living up to the commandments of the law. We are now going to carefully study the fifth (5th) chapter of Romans the theme of which is Justification. Read Romans 5:1.

- 2.1. It is through Jesus that we have this peace with God. The bridge between God and man/woman has been rebuilt. This bridge was established entirely on the basis of God’s grace. It is in this bridge that we have hope and can experience joy in anticipation of the future. Read Romans 5:2.

2.1.1. Read Romans 11:5-6. “In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice. /But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”

2.2. Even though we, as Christians, have peace with God and a deeply personal relationship with Him, it does not mean that we do not experience tribulations. Indeed, we see tribulations as God working in our lives. Paul states that we can boast in our tribulations, exalt in our tribulations, because we know the almighty God is with us. Read Romans 5:3,4.

2.3. Some would ask that if Christians are saved and have become children of God, then why do we suffer? On what basis do we have hope? We have hope because we have an eternal spirit in us with which the Holy Spirit resides in the temple of our bodies. Read Romans 5:5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.3.1. God does not remember our sins. Read Jeremiah 31:34. “*They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*” \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.3.2. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.4. The next three verses, God demonstrates his great love for mankind. “Yet while we were sinners, Christ died for us.” Read Romans 5:6-8. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.4.1. In Douglas Moo’s commentary, “The New International Commentary on the New Testament –Romans”, he makes the following argument.

2.4.1.1. Human love, at its best, will motivate a person to give his or her life for a truly “good” person. Which of the above verses (5:6-8) states this? \_\_\_\_\_

2.4.1.2. Christ, sent by God, died, not for “righteous” people, or even the “good” people, but for rebellious and undeserving people. Which of the above verses states this? \_\_\_\_\_

2.4.1.3. Therefore, God’s love is far greater in its magnitude and dependability than even the greatest human love. Which of the above verses states this? \_\_\_\_\_

2.5. In the next two verses, Paul brings it all together, especially the certainty of Christian hope discussed in verses 2 and 5. Read Romans 5:9-10. \_\_\_\_\_

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2.5.1. Verses 9 and 10 are parallel statements of the same point going from major point to minor point.

2.5.1.1. In other words, verse 9 states, “having now been justified by His blood (how) much more then – we shall be saved from wrath through Him”

2.5.1.2. Verse 10 states, “If while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, (how) much more having been reconciled, we shall be saved – by His life.”

2.5.1.3. God has done the most difficult thing, justified by His blood through the death of His Son, to the minor thing of reconciling us to Him.

2.5.2. We should also take note of the two words, justified and reconciled. **Justified is a legal word. It means that the Judge (God) declares us innocent. Reconciled on the other hand is a personal word. It means bringing together or to make peace.** It means that through Christ, God is bringing His people together with Himself. We go from being God’s enemies to being His Children.



2.6. In verse 11, we can now rejoice in our reconciliation. Read Romans 5:11. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.7. Now Paul comes to a **major conclusion** or observation, and that is, **that sin entered the world through one man, Adam. Salvation, on the other hand, comes also through one man, Jesus.** All people, therefore, fall under one or the other of the two men. Either we are sinners as being in Adam or we are saints as being in Jesus. Adam brings us sin, condemnation and death. Jesus brings us righteousness, justification and life. In verses 12-21, the power of Christ to overcome the sin of Adam is demonstrated. It is because of Christ's obedience, that we have been saved from Adam's disobedience. Read Romans 5:12. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.7.1. The death Paul refers to is physical death, spiritual death or both? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.7.2. Verse 12 is summarized this way: **Sin produces death; all die because all sin.** **In our first lesson on sin,** we discussed how the sin of Adam is imputed to us all. Simply, when Adam's spirit died, all of his descendents were born with a soul and body, but no spirit. There are people that say that is not fair, I was not around when Adam & Eve sinned. Why do I have to suffer the result? The answer is that you must suffer the result when you have no spirit. What should our response be? Read John 3:3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.7.3. If we are born again (spiritual birth) we do not have to suffer the result of Adam's sin.



2.8. Verse 12 ends with a **dash**. This means that Paul wants to modify what was said with the following two verses. Read Romans 5:13-14. \_\_\_\_\_

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2.8.1. How can one sin when there is no law? What about the people who lived between Adam and Moses. Paul explains that spiritual death reigned. All would therefore need salvation.

2.9. In the following verses, Paul begins to explain the relationship between Jesus and Adam. The similarity is between the **act of one (Adam) had a determinative impact on all of his descendants**. Similarly, **Jesus' act of dying for all also has a determinative impact on all people. Those that believe as well as those that do not believe**.

2.9.1. Read Romans 5:15-16. Please note the phrases, 'not like' and 'much more'. \_\_\_\_\_

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2.9.2. Adam's act resulted in \_\_\_\_\_ and is based on how many sins? \_\_\_\_\_

2.9.3. Jesus' act resulted in \_\_\_\_\_ and is based on how many sins? \_\_\_\_\_

2.10. Verse 17 and 18 is the summary of Paul's contrasting effects of Jesus and Adam. Read Romans 5:17-18. \_\_\_\_\_

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2.10.1. In Adam's case death was the result of sin. This is a critical condition that all men and women suffer. In Jesus, all who believe will have a new spirit, the gift of righteousness and will live forever with Him.



2.10.2. Paul makes it clear that every person is in Adam; however, only those who receive the gift of righteousness (vs.17), will reign in life through Christ.

2.11. In verse 19 Paul states it again. It is important that it be repeated. **Through one man many were made sinners. Through one man, many will be made righteous.** Romans 5:19. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.11.1. As Moo states; “**To be made righteous does not mean morally upright, but to be judged acquitted**, cleared of all charges, in the heavenly judgment. Through Christ’s obedient act, people become really righteous; but ‘righteous’ itself is a legal, not a moral, term in this context.”

2.12. **The Law** was given to us with an ultimate purpose in mind. It does teach us right from wrong and it is important that we teach our children and all adults the law. But its purpose was not to save, but to make transgression more severe. It intensifies the seriousness of sin. Read Romans 5:20. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2.12.1. Read Galatians 3:19-29. *“Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made./ Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. /Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. /But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe./ But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. /Therefore, the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith./ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. /For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. /For all of you who were baptized*

*into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. / There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. /And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.”*

2.12.2. Read Romans 7:13. *“Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.”*

2.13. **Those who receive the gift from Jesus enjoy a transfer from one domain to another—the domain of death to the domain of righteousness.** Moo in his commentary ends this thought on Romans 5. “Again, we see how Paul can highlight the importance of grace by giving it an active role, and how he pictures righteousness as the ‘gateway’ to eternal life.” Read Romans 5:21. *“...that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

3. Paul returns to the parallel between Adam and Jesus. Sin reigned in death means that sin reigned with death. All those who fail to become justified, i.e. fail to join God’s family will remain in sin and in death. All hope for the future is lost. Those of us who have accepted Christ, who has become a legal part of God’s family, who have become adopted children, who have been sealed by an unbreakable seal given us by the Holy Spirit, will reign in righteousness. We will reign with Christ our Lord in all eternity.

**During the week read/sing the following song as a reminder of this lesson.**

**’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus - Louisa M. R. Snead and William J. Kirkpatrick**

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word, just to rest upon his promise, just to say thus saith the Lord. Oh how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood, just in simple faith to plunge me “neath the healing, cleansing flood. Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him. How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er. Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust Him more.