

Justification

Romans 3:21-30

WHAT Is Redemption?

- ▶ English word “redemption” means to re-buy, “to regain possession of by repurchase.” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, page 833)
- ▶ **1 Peter 1:18-19 Redeemed by blood.**

WHAT Is Reconciliation?

- ▶ *katallássæ* – “the restoration of the favour of God to sinners” (Thayer)
 - ▶ to reconcile (those who are at variance)
 - ▶ return to favour with, be reconciled to one
 - ▶ to receive one into favour
- ▶ Produce harmony, return to favor, atonement (*at-one-ment*); : “the state of being at one.”
- ▶ **Colossians 1:19-22 Reconciled by blood.**

WHAT Is Justification?

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- ▶ “To deem right, to do justice, to be treated rightly, to show to be righteous, to declare, pronounce righteous” (G. Abbott-Smith, A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament).
- ▶ “To judge, to declare, pronounce righteous and therefore acceptable” (Thayer).
- ▶ “Be acquitted, be pronounced and treated as righteous” (Arndt and Gingrich)

WHAT Is Justification?

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- ▶ “1. to prove or show to be just, or conformable to law, right, justice, propriety, or duty; to defend or maintain; to vindicate as right. 2. to declare free from guilt or blame; to absolve; to clear.” (Webster)
- ▶ In the printing industry it means, “adjustment, as of type, by spacing it so as to make it exactly fill a line, or the cut so as to hold it in place.” (Webster)

WHAT Is Justification?

- ▶ **Illustration:** If one is seeking to justify an opinion, or to justify a course of conduct or justify a statement or to justify a friend, it does not mean that he is trying to improve the status of the thing spoken of, but rather that he is trying to vindicate (show to be right), so as to acquit or to make free.
- ▶ **Deuteronomy 25:1, “If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, and (the judges) judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked”**

WHAT Is Justification?

- ▶ Here we see that the righteous one is not improved but rather he is **vindicated or he is made righteous in view of the law.**
- ▶ "Justification" therefore is a legal term.
- ▶ Therefore the best definition for the word is "to vindicate (show to be right), acquit, or to make righteous."

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WHAT Is Justification?

NOTE: Difference between justification as the term is used in the court and as it is used in the Scripture.

- ▶ The **just** (righteous) man is **vindicated** in the court because of his conformance to law.
- ▶ In God's plan it is the **sinner** (guilty) who is made **righteous** or **vindicated** before the throne of God.

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Man's NEED For Justification

- ▶ Isaiah 59:1-2
- ▶ After showing that all, both Jew and Gentile, are under the guilt of sin, Paul says that "by the works of the law shall no flesh be **justified** in his sight." (Romans 3:20)
- ▶ "Now that no man is **justified** by the law before God, is evident." (Galatians 3:11)
- ▶ "Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be **justified** by the law; ye are fallen away from grace." (Galatians 5:4)

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Can one be justified by works of law?

- ▶ *Romans 3:20-22* "because by the works of the law shall **no flesh be justified** in his sight; ... But now **apart from the law a righteousness of God hath been manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe; for there is no distinction**"

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Can one be justified by works of law?

What did the law and the prophets witness?

- ▶ *Romans 16:26* "... but now is manifested, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, is **made known unto all the nations unto obedience of faith.**"

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What is "obedience of faith?"

What is faith? Hebrews 11:1

pisteos: "The state of being someone in whom complete confidence can be placed -

"**trustworthiness**, dependability, faithfulness."

The Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain says, "In active sense, faith, belief, **trust**, confidence." (Abbott-Smith)

"A conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of **trust** and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it: Heb 11:1." (Thayer)

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By What MEANS Is One Justified?

- ▶ The righteousness of God that is revealed in the gospel is *"apart from the law" (3:21)*.
- ▶ It is made known through faith in Jesus, and we are **justified by His grace**. Romans 3:22, 24, 26
- ▶ No room to glory. Romans 3:27; Ephesians 2:8-9
 - NOTE: Abraham. Hebrews 11:17; Romans 4:2
- ▶ All justified the same way. Romans 3:30.
- ▶ Access God's grace **"by faith."** Romans 5:2
- ▶ We are **"justified by his blood."** Romans 5:9

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- ▶ Blood is essential to redemption or the forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 9:22; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; 2:13; Colossians 1:14, 20; Hebrews 9:12, 14; 1 Peter 1:2, 19; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 5:9; 7:14; 12:11)

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- ▶ ***1 Peter 1:18-19 Redeemed by blood.***
- ▶ ***Colossians 1:19-22 Reconciled by blood.***
- ▶ ***Romans 5:9 Justified by blood.***
- ▶ One is **justified** when he comes in contact with the blood. Romans 6:3-4; 6:16-18
- ▶ Illustration: Corinthians. cf. Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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