

Aug 10, 2008



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆
Lesson Leader:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Joe & Comella Liles

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH - PART 2

ROM 5:1-21

Means and Extent of Justification

Christianity differs from other world religions in a striking way. **Christianity is the only religion that is not works-based.** Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam all have rungs on a ladder that one must climb to approach reward. This week's lesson shows that our ladder had no rungs. Jesus alone is the source of our reconciliation with God. (Even **our faith is not a "work," but rather our acknowledgment of Jesus' completed work on our behalf.**) Because Jesus' atoning work buys us access to the living God, **Christianity is more a "relationship" than a "religion."** The final take-home lesson is peace and assurance. Because we are not striving, working out our salvation on our own, we can rest in our hope and rejoice because we know we are not worthy, yet are accepted. We can even have peace and joy when things are rough, because our future is secure. Peace!

In both Romans and Galatians, Paul asserted that we have been justified, or declared righteous, by faith in Christ. This great truth is central to the gospel message. Under the old covenant, when there was a dispute, the parties were brought before judges. This was so "that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked" (Deut. 25:1). Thus far in Romans, it is clear that humans cannot be justified before God through their own goodness (3:12). Any justification available to sinful humanity must involve an imputed righteousness (4:6). We were guilty before God and, as such, condemned to eternal separation from God (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Rev. 20:14). In His grace, though, God was willing to change the guilty verdict to not guilty! Even though we are unrighteous (Isa. 64:6), God has declared us righteous in Christ (Rom. 3:24-26) and imparted to us the "righteousness of God" (vs. 22). As Paul wrote in Romans 3:21, a righteousness from God has been made known. It is this righteousness that God declares for those who have faith in Jesus. As a result, we have peace with God. Romans 3:23-24 explains that all people have sinned and come up short, whether they were trying to follow the law or not. This is what grace is all about. God has declared us righteous because of our faith. He has made us righteous. When we realize that we cannot achieve real righteousness on our own, we realize we must depend on our Savior. It is then that we can live in the righteousness that He has provided to us and be truly righteous. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that salvation is a gift from God. It is something that God gives us. It is not something we can do for ourselves.

Just as we have faith for salvation, which is essentially the same thing as justification, so **we must also have faith for living the Christian life.** It is also important to note that Paul said we *have been* justified. Justification is not something we look forward to; it is something we can enjoy here and now, for it has already been accomplished. It becomes effective for us when we believe. Since we are justified by faith, we can and do experience the peace of God. When we tried to measure up by obeying a set of rules, we always came up short and could never really attain that peace. When we realize it is a gift from Him to start with, we can more easily live by faith. **Since Adam and Eve, we have been separated from God, and we have all had a God shaped vacuum inside us. We were apart from God with no hope. Now, however, because we have been declared righteous, we can draw near to God.** He has made this possible. Some point to older Greek manuscripts of Romans 5:1 that read "Let us have peace with God" or "Let us keep on having peace with God." The peace has been made by God through Jesus. As believers, our responsibility is not to attain peace or to make peace with God. This can be done only by God. Our responsibility is to enjoy and live in the peace that God has provided by faith. Justification means that God declares us righteous. This is a declaration of peace made possible by Christ's death on the cross. Before we were saved, we were condemned, and we were enemies of God. Now He calls us His children.

Displaying the Righteousness of God A Study in Romans

Date	Lesson	Text
07/06	Introduction	
07/13	All Have Sinned	1:16-20; 3:9-20
07/20	God's Judgment	2:1-16
07/27	God's Promises	4:2-25
08/03	Justified By Faith Pt 1	5:1-21
08/10	Justified By Faith Pt 2	5:1-21
08/17	Victory in Christ	6:1-14
08/24	Life in the Spirit	8:1-16
08/31	Salvation in Christ	10:5-17
09/07	Marks of a Christian	12:1-21
09/14	Responsible Citizens	13:1-14
09/21	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6
09/28	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

Problems are not always EASY. If they were **simple**, you might be **fooled** into believing you can **handle them yourself.**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

(supplied by a Class Member)

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary and the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

MEANS OF JUSTIFICATION (ROM 5:6-11)

Jesus' death (vs 6-7)

- Justified through Jesus' death to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18)
- Justified through Jesus' death to prove true love (1 John 3:16)
- Justified through Jesus' death so that Jesus lives in and through us (Gal 2:20)
- Justified through Jesus' death because Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant (Heb 9:15)

God's love (vs 8)

- Love that prompted God to provide Jesus as our sacrifice (John 3:16)
- Love that is incomparably rich (Eph 2:6-7)
- Love that God expressed in mercy (1 Tim 1:15-16)
- Love that is defined as Jesus laying down His life for us (1 John 3:16)
- Love that shows itself by living through Jesus (1 John 4:9-10)

Jesus' blood (vs 9)

- God defined the blood as the atonement vehicle for sins (Lev 17:11)
- The law states that blood cleanses everything (Heb 9:22)
- Jesus' blood reconciled man to God (Col 1:19-20)
- Our conscience has been washed and cleansed by Jesus' blood (Heb 10:22)

Reconciliation through Jesus (vs 10-11)

- A reconciliation that brings peace with God (Eph 2:14-16)
- A reconciliation that requires humbly seeking God's face and a repentant heart (2 Chron 7:14)
- A reconciliation of the mind and body (Col 1:21-22)
- A reconciliation where God does not count men's sins against them (2 Cor 5:17-19)

EXTENT OF JUSTIFICATION (ROM 5:18-21)

Total righteousness (vs 18-19)

- Righteousness that is apart from the law (Rom 3:21-22)
- Righteousness that comes through the sinless Jesus (2 Cor 5:21)
- Righteousness that is the result of Jesus being the fulfillment of the law (Rom 10:4)
- Righteousness through being in Jesus, who is our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)

Abundant grace (vs 20)

- Abundant grace through God's sufficiency (2 Cor 12:9)
- Abundant grace through God's will and pleasure (Eph 1:5-6)
- Abundant grace through mercy (1 Tim 1:13-14)
- Abundant grace through justification (Titus 3:3-7)
- Abundant grace that results in blessing after blessing (John 1:16)

Eternal life (vs 21)

- An eternal life that is a gift from God (Rom 6:23)
- An eternal life that comes through being in Jesus (1 John 5:11-12)
- An eternal life that God promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2)
- An eternal life that comes from God's promise because of being an heir of God (Titus 3:7)