

Lesson 30

The Never Ending Joy of Justification

"Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise." - Martin Luther

"Justification is a mercy spun out of the bowels of free grace. God does not justify us because we are worthy, but by justifying us makes us worthy... Justification is the very hinge and pillar of Christianity. An error about justification is dangerous, like a defect in a foundation."
- Thomas Watson

"Justification is the principle of the whole doctrine of salvation and the foundation of all religion." - John Calvin

"We are justified, not by giving anything to God, what we do, but by receiving from God, what Christ hath done for us." - William Gurnall

"Justification is... a completed fact for the believer; it is not an ongoing process."
- John MacArthur

"The inner change, justification, is effected at the moment of salvation. The outer change in the believer's daily walk, sanctification, continues throughout life. But the progressive work of sanctification is only fully effective when the radical, inner transformation of justification is realized and appropriated by faith."
- Neil T. Anderson

Review: 1 Tim 4:7 commands the believer to train himself to godliness. This truth is repeated in 2 Pet 3:18 through the command to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. What does it mean to train yourself to godliness and how does a believer grow in the grace of Christ? What part does God's Word, God's Character, and God's grace as seen in the gospel play in all of this? What is the conduit through which forgiveness flows? What does reconciliation (Col 1:22) mean and how does this help you as you train yourself to godliness? What does redemption (Col 1:14) mean and how does this help you grow in the grace of Christ?

1. Read these verses and explain how God is described (2 Tim 4:8; Ex 23:7; 32:4; 34:6-7; Ezek 18:4, 20; Nahum 1:3; Ps 11:7; 19:9; 33:5; 37:28; 119:137; 145:17; Prov 21:3; Jerm 9:24; Rom 3:26).

Read these verses and explain how man is described (Gen 6:5; 8:21; Jerm 17:9 Isa 64:6-7; Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:10-18, 23; 5:12; Eph 2:1-3; Titus 3:3).

Now read Bildad's most critical life question in Job 25:4, along with Rom 3:20 and Gal 3:10-11, and explain how important "justification" is to life and a right understanding of salvation.

What does the Bible mean when it uses the language of justification? See Rom 1:17; 3:21-26; 1 Cor 1:30; Phil 3:9; Rom 5:1

Is justification instantaneous or progressive? (Rom 10:3-4; 5:12-18; 4:6, 20-25; 8:28-30)

Is justification something man can bring upon himself? Defend your answer from Scripture.

Read 2 Cor 5:21, Rom 5:15-21, Phil 3:9, 1 Cor 1:30, and 1 Pet 2:24, then explain what part imputation plays in a right understanding of justification.

Read Zech 3:1-5 and Isa 61:10 and explain what this illustrates.

We talk a lot about Christ's death but how important was Christ's life to our salvation? (2 Cor 5:21; Rom 5:1, 10-11, 18-21; 1 Cor 1:30)

What is the difference between justification and sanctification and what happens when we confuse those categories?

How do Roman Catholics understand justification and how do they totally miss the gospel through their wrong view of justification? Defend your answer from Scripture.

Memory Verse: Rom 5:1