

THE ANSWER

Justified Romans 3:24

MESSAGE NOTES

A word: JUSTIFIED

- Understand it
- Remember it and never forget it
- Believe in it
- Live it
- Share it

Romans 3:24

"Righteous" = conforms to a standard

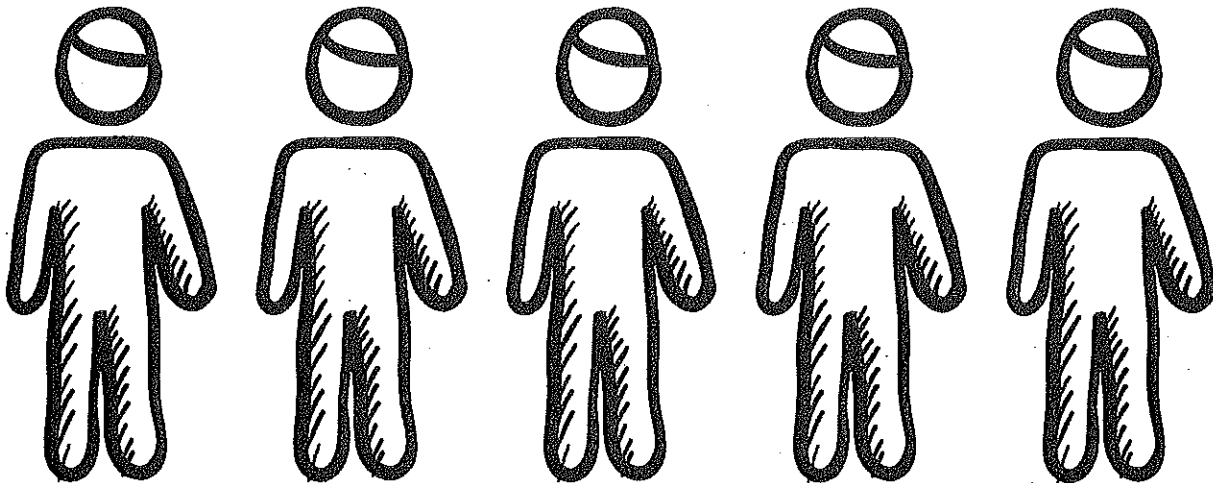
"Justified" = declared righteous

- God requires you to conform to His standard.
- You do not. Therefore you are guilty and condemned.
- God declares that you conform to His standard.
- You conform to God's standard.

How is this possible?

- Jesus was declared guilty and condemned in your place.
- He paid the full price for sin (redemption) and satisfied the justice of God (propitiation).
- Your sins were assigned to Him.
- His righteousness was assigned to you.

Illustration



Truths

- Justification is a gift from God.
- Justification is received by faith alone.
- Justification is made possible by Jesus Christ alone.

Implications

- This is available to anyone.
- It is humbling.
- It is also freeing.
- Forgiveness and eternal life are a sure thing.
- You are in a position of strength in your struggle with sin.
- We can be real with each other.
- Romans 5:1-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A common question used in introducing the Gospel to an unbeliever is, If you were to stand before God today, and if He were to ask you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" what would you say? What would a good one-word answer be? Why?

If you've been a Christian or been around Christian teaching for many years, "justified" might lose its importance in your thinking. Why is this? How can you change this? Why should you keep it in the forefront of your thinking? Why is it so important?

Would someone like to take a shot at explaining what it means to be justified? What is it? Why do we need it? How does God do it? What is the result?

Look at the five people figures in the illustration used in the message. Did one of these especially help you understand what it means to be justified? Which one and why?

We talked about several implications of being justified. Discuss the following based on those points.

- Why is it a humbling thing to be justified? How does this affect your view of God? How will it affect your worship on the Lord's Day morning? In your personal time? How will it affect your view of people who don't meet your standards of behavior? Your view of other Christians who don't "have it all together?" People who struggle with habits, weaknesses, addictions?
- Why is it a freeing thing to be justified? What are you free from?
- Forgiveness and eternal life are a sure thing. Are you sure that you have been forgiven and that you have eternal life? What is this based on? Imagine that you are talking with someone who knows that at a past time they believed in Jesus as Savior, but are now struggling with doubts about their salvation. What can you say, based on the truth of justification, that might help them? What should you not say to them?
- Christians have sin struggles. This is reality. If you've been justified, you are no longer battling to overcome sin in order to be accepted by God. You are in a position of strength. How does this fact help you in daily temptations? In dealing with major sinful patterns of thinking and behavior? In battling an addiction? In helping someone else with these issues?
- How does knowing we are justified help us to be real with one another? How does it affect our tendency to pretend to be righteous? How does it affect our tendency to judge, be critical of, look down on, and keep our distance from genuine Christians who seem to be less "righteous" in their behavior than us?

Is there anyone you know who would really benefit from understanding what it means to be justified? Will you pray that you can introduce this truth to that person?