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JUSTIFICATION:
The right way to salvation

2  **Review**

- Paul is writing this letter to defend the gospel and his apostleship against the Judaizers.
- Judaizers knew they first had to undermine Paul's credentials and authority
- Paul wrote Galatians to defend his apostleship and the true gospel.
- Paul confronted Peter
- Setting of scripture – Galatian love feast

3  **Justification – get it right!**

- Vv. 15-16: *We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified*
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4  **Justification – get it right!**

- Do you like being right? Oops!!!
- Why do we need justification?
 - dead wrong!
 - Romans 3; Ephesians 2
- When people say, "I have to get right with God"
 - Their checklist
 - Problem: God is perfect

5  **God makes us right with God**

- You come and accept God's terms.
- Hardin-Simmons University
 - The clock on the wall
 - The professor
 - The final exam
- People think they can manipulate God
- Terrible predicament.
- God demands perfection
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6  **Two options:**

- Be Perfect or
- Find someone who can be perfect in our place.
- Good news!! God delights to forgive.
- Bad news–He forgives only when justice is satisfied.
 - Jesus assumes our guilt and debt.
 - He bore our sins and the curse of the law on the cross.

7  **Justification Defined**

- Justification is an act of God whereby He declares, on the basis of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, that the sinner who puts his faith in Jesus is "not guilty."
 - Justification is an act, not a process.
 - Passive Voice

– Thus, WE ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BY GOD.

8 **Faith in Jesus – only way to God**

- 1976 – Manila – Dale and Barbara’s 19th Wedding Anniversary
- Typhoon – Flood
- Taxi Driver: “How are you going to get there? Swim?”
- How are you going to get to heaven? By your own efforts? Impossible!

9 **Hezekiah’s tunnel**

- 1800 feet – From Spring of Gihon to Pool of Siloam inside the city – started from both ends – ‘S’ shaped tunnel – 150 feet below the surface – solid rock – the two sides met perfectly
- Many people think salvation like tunneling thru a mountain
 - God does His part
 - We do our part

10 **History – man’s attempts**

- Example of the Judaizers.
- Paul before his conversion
- Example of Martin Luther: “*If ever a monk got to heaven by monkery, I would have got there too; all my brothers will testify to that. For if it had gone on much longer, I would simply have martyred myself to death with vigils, prayers, reading and other work.*”

11 **Justification – keep it right!**

- Vv. 17-19: ¹⁷ “*But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!*” ¹⁸ “*for if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.*” ¹⁹ “*for I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.*”

12 **Justification – keep it right!**

- V. 19: Paul’s Contrast
 - Dead to the law
 - Alive to God

13 **Dead to the law**

- Philippians 3 tells us how hard Paul worked to earn God’s favor.
- Paul had it made.
- Then he met Christ and everything changed.
- Everything before like dung
- Failure
- X-ray

14 **Alive to God**

- What the law could not do, Christ has done for us.
- To be alive - Now live for God’s glory
- A brand new person

15 **John Bunyan poem**

*“Run, John, run,” the law commands,
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
Better news the gospel brings:
It bids me fly and gives me wings.”*

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- Peter found out how hard it was to KEEP IT RIGHT

16  **Justification – live it right!**

- Vv. 20-21: ²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* ²¹ *I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”*