

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 1 – JUSTIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

One of the modern errors of today is to identify justification with pardon. Justification is more than pardon; to justify means to declare righteous. God's problem in redeeming man was to justify the sinner without condoning or justifying his sin. God could not compromise in judgment and treat sin lightly.

Law and justice demanded the death penalty for every sin.
Ezek. 18:20 - *The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

The mercy of God yearned to rescue the offender in the interests of love. In a human court the Judge justifies the righteous and condemns the wicked.
Dt. 25:1 - *Then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.*

God refuses to justify the guilty.
Ex. 23:7 - *For I will not justify the wicked.*

God pronounces judgment on human judges that pervert judgment.
Isa. 5:22, 23 - *Woe to those ... who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.* (NIV)

Luke 16:15, Jesus condemns the Pharisees for justifying themselves before God.

The law, Romans 2:13, said, *But the doers of the law shall be justified.*

But the question facing God was: "What man could keep the law perfectly?"
Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

The problem was so perplexing that only Infinite Wisdom and the Grace of God were equal to the task of solving it.

God's solution: Jesus volunteered to be the man to live the perfect life according to the law, gain the righteousness and then give it as a gift to the believing.

Romans 5:17 - *... Much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*

Romans 3:22 - *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.* (NIV)

I. DEFINITION What is Justification?

Justification is being accounted righteous before God; the sinner puts on the righteousness of Jesus Christ and God sees him perfect in the righteousness of Christ. Henceforth God sees the sinner righteous in the Savior – hidden in His wonderful Person.

Justification is the judicial act of God whereby those who put faith in Christ are declared righteous in His eyes, and free from guilt and punishment.

Romans 4:3 - *What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."* (NIV)

Romans 4:5 - *To the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.* (NIV)

II. THE CONTENTS OF JUSTIFICATION

1. The forgiveness of sin and the removal of its guilt and punishment. For a holy and righteous God to forgive sin is not a small matter; the truth is that God actually delights in forgiving and cleansing iniquity.

Micah 7:18, 19 - *Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy...He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

In justification all our sins are forgiven and the guilt and punishment thereof removed.

Acts 13:38,39 - *Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.*

2. The imputation of Christ's righteousness.

The forgiven sinner is not like a discharged prisoner who has served his term and is discharged from further punishment, but with no rights of citizenship. In Christ Jesus the sinner receives the full rights of citizenship.

Romans 3:22 - *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.* (NIV)

The perfect, holy righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to the sinner.

III. THE CONDITION OF FORGIVENESS – Faith

The sinner calls out, “How can I receive this gift of righteousness?”

The answer is, “By believing” on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Gal. 2:16 - know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. (NIV)

Romans 3:26 - To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 4:5 - But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

The best of men need to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ and wicked sinners can also be justified in the same way.

IV. THE MEANS OF JUSTIFICATION

1. **By God.** He is the author or donor of justification.

Romans 8:33 - Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Justification is a judicial act performed by God, the Father Almighty.

2. **By grace.** Grace is the foundation or source of justification.

Romans 3:24 - Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Titus 3:7 - so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

3. **By blood.** The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is the foundation or ground of justification.

Romans 5:9 - Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

4. **By resurrection.** Resurrection is the acknowledgment or proclamation of justification.

Romans 4:25 - *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

V. THE EVIDENCE OF JUSTIFICATION - Works

The one who is truly justified will manifest this fact in good works.

James 2:21-23 - *Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. (NIV)*

VI. THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION

1. Peace. Romans 5:1 - *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. Access into the presence of God for worship, praise and petition.

Romans 5:2 - *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand...*

3. Tribulation. Rev. Samuel Matthew of Madras, India, very carefully pointed out what he considered the two great results of justification: peace with God and tribulation in this world, Rom. 5:3 cf. 2 Tim. 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

CONCLUSION

We are justified judicially by God. Rom. 8:33, "It is God that justifieth." We are justified meritoriously by Christ. Isa. 53:11 *He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

We are justified meditatively by faith. Rom. 5:1 – *"Therefore being justified by faith."*

We are justified evidentially by works. Jas. 2:14 – *"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works?"*

In Luke 8:13-14, the sinner that prayed, *"God be merciful to me a sinner,"* went home justified, said the Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between justification and pardon?
2. Define justification.

3. State the two items contained in justification with a Scripture for each.
4. How can you reconcile Exodus 23:7 and 1 Cor. 6:11?
5. What is the condition of justification? (3 Scriptures)
6. List the 3 means of justification (one Scripture for each).
7. What is the connection between resurrection and justification?
8. How can you reconcile James 2:21-23 and Romans 4:3-5?
9. List 5 results of justification from Romans 5:1-3.
10. How is Romans 5:1 a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:11?