

Justified?

I. The Righteousness (22)

A righteous standing with God is only by grace and received by faith.

II. The Righteous (23-25)

The resurrection of Christ demonstrated that God accepted the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ as the means of justification for all who would believe.

The resurrection of Christ should be a source of assurance and joy for me.

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group for even more benefit.

1. Read Romans 4:1-8. Paul uses the example of Abraham, then David, to illustrate that a person is justified by what, and not by what? (See also 3:28)

Define justified in Bible usage.

Human nature and culture tend to cause us to feel a need to do something to be justified in or for something. What kinds of things tempt you to feel you need to do them to earn justification before God?

2. Read Romans 4:9-22. Notice how Paul uses the example of Abraham to illustrate that justification is not gained by faith plus something. Circumcision is not required (v. 9-12), keeping the Law is not required (13-17), and faith alone in God's promise is the only way to gain justification.

What promise do we have that this would apply to? Why might it be hard to trust that our justification before God is only through faith?

3. In Romans 4:23-24 Paul points out that faith-only-justification is for all those who will believe. How is knowing this helpful in your life?

4. Read Romans 4:25. The words "because of," or "for," remind us of the need for Jesus to go to the cross for us because of our sin. Why is it important to be reminded of this?

The words "because of" or "for" are also used in reference to our justification. In this case the meaning is to show us that we are justified. How might the resurrection of Jesus show us that the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ was acceptable to God?

5. What helps you hold on to the belief that your justification is solely based on the grace of God received through faith?