

## Big Bible Words with Big Meaning "Justification"

### Introduction:

1. There is a common myth I want to dispel this morning. Here it is - "I can't understand the Bible." Many people have convinced themselves of this and it simply is not true.
  - The only way this would be true is if the Bible were not written in the language you speak and understand.
  - **Ephesians 5:17** - where do I discover the will of God? In the Word of God, and God says I can understand it.
  - **Colossians 1:9** - God wants you to be filled with spiritual understanding. This happens as you read, study, and learn God's Word.
2. The Bible is not written in secret code. It isn't written in a mystical and symbolic manner that is hard to figure out. It is a book written to real people in real places in plain language that they understood and we can understand today.
3. Will there be words that you don't know or understand? Of course, but this is true of any book you read, unless it is written on an elementary school level.
4. This is why it is crucial that you have an English dictionary and also a Bible dictionary when you study the Word of God. Read it slowly, re-read it and look up words or places that you do not recognize.
5. We have been examining some big Bible words that are crucial to your understanding.
6. The word I want to focus on today is "justification." **Romans 4:25, 5:18**

### First, what does the word justification mean?

1. Webster's on-line defines it as "the act, process or state of being justified by God."
  - So if I have **received** justification, it means I have been justified. That doesn't help our understanding a lot.
2. As you can probably see, these words come from the root word "justice." God is the ultimate Judge of you and me. **Romans 3:6**
3. When God **judges**, it is always executed with perfect **justice**. So if I am justified by God it means I have been proven to be just and right. I am judged, regarded and treated as righteous.
  - **Illustration:** Banana missing from my office and I know Larry loves bananas. When I question him, I find out he wasn't even in the office that day. Larry is justified. He is cleared of any guilt and declared to be righteous in the case of the banana theft.

### Second, why do I need justification?

1. By saying that I need it, this naturally infers that I don't have it. When you talk to a lot of people, they think they are fine. When you ask them, "Are you sure you are going to heaven you die?" they many times will say, "I'm okay with the man upstairs."
2. Why do people think they are okay with God?
  - Because they measure themselves by their own preconceived standard.

- Because they measure themselves by the actions of others.
3. Did you know that God has established a righteous and objective standard? It is called "the law."
    - God's law is found in the book of Exodus in your Bible. God's law contains hundreds of commands and is a perfect expression of God's righteousness.
  4. Have you kept God's righteous standard? Let's take just a few of the Ten Commandments.
    - Have you ever lied?
    - Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you?
    - Have you ever taken God's name and used it as a curse word?
    - Have you ever committed sexual sin or had a lustful heart towards another person?
    - Did you ever disrespect your parents while growing up?
  5. Have you met God's righteous standard? If you were judged by God's standard on judgment day, would you be guilty or innocent?
  6. According to **Romans 3:19** we are all **guilty!** The law shows us that we have no hope of being justified before God based on our actions and behavior.  
**Romans 3:20**
  7. We desperately need justification before God, but we stand guilty before the Judge.

### **Third, what if I fail to receive justification before God?**

1. God's righteousness and justice will demand that you pay the penalty for your sin, disobedience, and disregard for God's law.
2. **Romans 6:23** is clear - "*The wages of sin is death.*" Your body will die physically, but your soul has a death to die too. **Ezekiel 18:20** states, "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" **cf. Revelation 21:8**
3. You may believe that God's goodness will cause Him to overlook your sins, but it's God's goodness that will see to it that justice is served. If God allows one sin to go unpunished, He is not a righteous Judge, but rather a sinner like you and I.

### **Fourth, how can I receive justification before God?**

1. You and I stand guilty before God Almighty and face eternal death for our sin. We are helpless to do anything about it. Even if we were to stop sinning today and never sin again, it wouldn't erase all the sins of our past.
2. Our only hope is for God Himself to somehow provide justification **for us**. Did you know that is exactly what God has done for us by taking on flesh and blood and coming to this sin-cursed earth?
3. Jesus Christ kept the righteousness of the law in totality - not one act of disobedience or sin. **Hebrews 4:15**
4. Jesus kept the righteous standard and then suffered the penalty of sin on the cross. Why did He do this? **Romans 5:8; cf. 1 Peter 3:18**
5. Do you know what justification is?
  - Your sin is put on Christ's account and stamped, "Paid in Full."
  - Christ's righteousness is credited to your account.

6. How do you gain this justified position before God? You can't get it by **your** actions. We've already established the fact that we've all blown it. But there's good news. **Romans 3:21** - Righteousness is available **apart** from the law!
7. How do you obtain it? By simply believing and trusting in what Christ has done on your behalf. **Romans 3:22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30**
8. When you believe that **His** work is the work that can reconcile you to God, you are immediately cleared of all guilt and Christ's righteousness is credited to your account. You are now **justified!** How did it happen? By faith in Jesus Christ.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Remember, justification is when I am cleared of all guilt and declared righteous before God. **2 Corinthians 5:21** sums up the doctrine of justification beautifully.
2. Have you ever believed this? Have you ever admitted your guilt and placed your total faith and trust in Jesus Christ?
3. Isn't today the day you need to do this? You do not want to die in your sins. Open up your heart and believe on Jesus Christ today.