

Bethel Bible Series

Justification

NT Study 11

We judge others by their actions. We judge ourselves by our intentions. - PK

Welcome

Opening - What all do we have to do to be saved and receive eternal life?
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - *Reversion*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing,
it is the gift of God - not because of works, lest any man should boast.*
Ephesians 2:8-9

Three Barriers to the Gospel

- Barrier 1 - Philosophical Ideas = Man is in charge of his destiny
- Barrier 2 - Human Pride = Uneasy with unearned gifts, don't want to be in debt
- Barrier 3 - Experience = What does he want in return? Everything has a price.

Reversion

- Problem - Pharisee disciples said Gentiles must be circumcised and obey Law
- Reversionists said that man could earn righteousness and participate in salvation
- The Gospel says man is justified by faith apart from law
- Paul explained that all who sin under the law will be judged by the law
- Adding Law to Gospel says that what God did through Jesus wasn't enough
- Figures Walking Away From Light* = Reversion movement to Jewish elements
- Figures Stopped and Pointed Back to Light* = Church leaders stop reversion
- Three Scrolls* = Epistles to Galatians, Hebrews and Romans speak to reversion

Galatians - Written by Paul to the churches in the region of Galatia

- Paul visited Galatia on every missionary journey, Letter was before Third Journey
- Paul was obviously very upset that someone was leading them astray
- Scroll Over Dead Tree* = Dependence on Law for salvation leads only to death
- Paul stated his credentials to prove that his Gospel was from God and not men
- He gave strong arguments against justification through the Law

Hebrews - Author unknown, Readers not specifically identified

- Scroll Over Man in Pit* = Christ is superior to all things in the old era
- Man in Pit* = Christ is superior to the Patriarchs and Prophets
- Green Robe* = Christ's priesthood is superior to Levitical priesthood
- Scroll* = Christ is superior to the law and traditions
- Stone Block* = Christ is greater than the temple
- Lamb* = Christ represents a better sacrifice

Romans - Written by Paul to saints in Rome, At end of Third Journey

- Scroll Over Second Man in Pit* = The believer is justified by faith
- Scrolls in Arm* = Law and traditions cannot and will not save
- Grain Sheaf in Arm* = Good works will not justify in God's eyes

Bethel Bible Series

Justification

Page 2

Lesson - Justification

Words on the Street

Have you heard anyone say any of these? Do you agree? Why or why not?

The Bible and the story of Jesus is interesting, but it's irrelevant. (secularism)

1 Timothy 4:8 = *Godliness has value for all things, ... both the present life and the life to come*

There's no right or wrong. It's whatever works for you. (relativism)

Proverbs 14:12 = *There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death*

Romans 1:28-32 = *Without the truth of God, men are filled with wickedness and approve of it*

We are all going to the same place. (religious pluralism)

Matthew 13:47-50 = *Like fish, angels will separate wicked from righteous*

It makes no difference what a person believes as long as he is sincere.

John 3:16-18 = *... Whoever does not believe [in Him] stands condemned ...*

Acts 4:12 = *Salvation is found in no one else ... no other name*

John 12:48 = *the one who rejects me will be condemned on the last day*

Now there's someone who deserves to go to heaven. (humanism)

Isaiah 64:6 = *All of our righteous acts are like filthy rags - cloth used during a woman's period*

Homework Question Review

1. What do you think is meant by Romans 3:10? = *There is no one righteous, not even one*
2. Must a person be righteous as God if he or she is to inherit eternal life?
Matthew 5:48 = *Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.*
Job 9:2 = *How can a mortal be righteous before God?*
3. Can we attain a God-like righteousness without God intervening on our behalf?
Romans 3:20-24 = *No one righteous by obedience; Righteousness is from God by faith*
4. Is it possible to live a good life and yet not possess saving righteousness?
Romans 10:1-4 = *Israelites are zealous for God; without God's righteousness*
5. Do you feel that a man or woman will feel any necessity to be justified in God's eyes if he or she fails to understand that God demands perfect righteousness for entry into His eternal presence?
Romans 7:7 = *I would not have known what sin was except for the law*
6. Will any take justification seriously if they do not take the authority of the Scriptures seriously?
Matthew 22:29 = *You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God*

Bethel Bible Series

Justification

Page 3

Self-Justification

Just = Acting or being in conformity with what is morally upright or good; righteous

Justify = To show a sufficient lawful reason for an act done

Justice = To treat fairly or adequately

How do we react when we feel we have been treated unjustly or unfairly? = Angry

How does this change when we realize the other person may be right? = More angry

Self-Justification = The act or an instance of making excuses for oneself

Give some examples of self-justification at others' expense

Two 4-year olds pushing each other = He did it first, She started it

Teenager taking mother's money = She won't even miss it

Speeding = Okay because I need to get to an appointment on time

Setting bag on seat so no one will sit there = I need the space to work

Keeping extra change given in error = They make lots of money anyway

How does self-justification impact our relationship with others? = Damages it

How does self-justification impact our relationship with God? = Denies us the gift of freedom from sins

Self-Deception = Being in denial about acting in ways that you know is contrary to what is right

Definitions

Salvation = Being saved from deserved eternal damnation, given eternal life

Righteousness = Perfect conformance to God's standards, right with God

Justification = God's judicial act in counting the faithful righteous

Sanctification = To be made holy, set free from burden of sin to do God's work

Justification

Figure Facing Heaven's Light = Christian sees the Bible as authority on life and faith

Romans 10:17 = Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ

2 Timothy 3:14-17 = Scriptures make you wise for salvation through faith

Figures Standing on Barren Earth = God won't accept sinful and unrepentant people into His kingdom

Romans 3:23 = *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Psalms 143:2 = *Don't bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you*

Golden City = God acted through Christ to justify sinners in His eyes

Colossians 1:22 = *He has reconciled you ... to present you holy in His sight, without blemish*

1 Peter 2:24 = He bore our sins on the tree so we live for righteousness

Romans 4:3-5 = Faith will be credited as righteous, God justifies the wicked

Bethel Bible Series

Justification

Page 4

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Matthew 22:1-7

Who is the king? Who is the son? Who is the bride? = God, Jesus, Church

Who are the invited guests? = Israel

What is meant by "oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered"? = *fullness of time*

Who are the servants? How were they mistreated? = Prophets, rejected and killed

What is referenced by verse 7? = Israel exiled and Jerusalem destroyed

Matthew 22:8-10

Who are these servants? = The new Israel, Christians to take invitation of gospel

Who are the people they went to find? = Gentiles, whoever accepted invitation

What is the point of "both good and bad" = Jews and Gentiles; Didn't deserve invitation

Matthew 22:11-14

What are the wedding clothes? = God's righteousness

Where do the clothes come from? = From God through grace (justification)

Why is the king upset that the man isn't wearing wedding clothes? = Rejected grace

Distracting Bubbles

Figures Reaching for Bubbles = Scriptures warn against seeking justification in ways that can't justify
Bubbles will continue to rise out of the earth to distract man

Mortarboard and Book = None are justified by Human Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 = *The foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom*

1 Corinthians 2:6-7, 13-14 = Speak in words of the Spirit, not of human wisdom

Law Tablets and Scales = None are justified by Works of the Law or Morality

Romans 3:20, 28 = No one will be declared righteous by observing the law

Galatians 2:15-16, 21 = Jews know man isn't justified by observing the law

Galatians 5:4 = You trying to be justified by law have fallen from grace

Ivory Tower = None are justified by Idealism and Noble Intentions

Romans 7:15-23 = I have the desire to do good, but I cannot carry it out (18)

Microscope and Vials = None are justified by Self-Efforts

1 Corinthians 3:11 = Can't lay any foundation other than Jesus Christ

Bubbles Reflect Heaven's Light = Bubble things are good, but do not justify

Pathway From Mountaintop = We're justified by what God did for us through Christ

Figure in White Robe Extends Arms Heavenward = Justification is through faith

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 11 and Assignment 12

Next Week - *Faith*