

Justification

Romans 3:21-30

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Review:

WHAT Is *Redemption*?

- English word "redemption" means to re-buy, "to regain possession of by repurchase." (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, page 833)
- **1 Peter 1:18-19 – Redeemed by blood.**

2

WHAT Is *Reconciliation*?

- *katallássæ* – "the restoration of the favour of God to sinners" (*Thayer*)
 - to reconcile (those who are at variance)
 - return to favour with, be reconciled to one
 - to receive one into favour
- Produce harmony, return to favor, atonement (*at-one-ment*): "the state of being at one"
- **Colossians 1:19-22 – Reconciled by blood.**

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WHAT Is *Justification*?

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- "To deem right, to do justice, to be treated rightly, to show to be righteous, to declare, pronounce righteous" (G. Abbott-Smith, *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*).
- "To judge, to declare, pronounce righteous and therefore acceptable" (*Thayer*).
- "Be acquitted, be pronounced and treated as righteous" (Arndt and Gingrich).

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WHAT Is *Justification*?

Our English word:

- "1. to prove or show to be just, or conformable to law, right, justice, propriety, or duty; to defend or maintain; to vindicate as right. 2. to declare free from guilt or blame; to absolve; to clear." (*Webster*)
- In the **printing industry** it means, "adjustment, as of type, by spacing it so as to make it exactly fill a line, or the cut so as to hold it in place." (*Webster*)

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WHAT Is *Justification*?

- Illustration: If one is seeking to justify an opinion, or to justify a course of conduct or justify a statement or to justify a friend, **it does not mean that he is trying to improve** the status of the thing spoken of, but rather that he is trying to **vindicate** (show to be right), **so as to acquit or to make free**.
- Deuteronomy 25:1, "If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, and (the judges) judge them; then they shall **justify** the righteous, and condemn the wicked"

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WHAT Is *Justification*?

- Deuteronomy 25:1 – Here we see that the righteous one is not improved, but rather he is **vindicated or he is made righteous in view of the law.**
- "Justification," therefore, is a legal term.
- Therefore the best definition for the word is to vindicate (show to be right), acquit, or to make righteous.

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WHAT Is *Justification*?

NOTE: Difference between justification as the term is used in the court and as it is used in the Scripture.

- The just (righteous) man is vindicated in the court of law because of his conformance to law.
- In God's plan the sinner (guilty) is made righteous or vindicated before the throne of God.

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Man's NEED For *Justification*

- Isaiah 59:1-2
- After showing that all, both Jew and Gentile, are under the guilt of sin, Paul says that "*no flesh shall be **justified** by the works of law.*" (Romans 3:20)
- "Now that no man is **justified** by the law before God, is evident." (Galatians 3:11)
- "Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be **justified** by the law; ye are fallen away from grace." (Galatians 5:4)

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Can one be *justified* by works of law?

- Romans 3:19-22, "*because by the works of the law shall **no flesh be justified** in his sight;*

*... But now apart from the law a righteousness of God hath been manifested, **being witnessed by the law and the prophets**; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe; for there is no distinction"*

- cf. Acts 13:39; Galatians 2:16

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Can one be *justified* by works of law?

What did the law and the prophets witness?

- Romans 16:26, "... but now is manifested, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, is made known unto all the nations unto **obedience of faith.**"

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What is "*obedience of faith*?"

What is faith? Hebrews 11:1

pisteos: "The state of being someone in whom complete confidence can be placed – 'trustworthiness, dependability, faithfulness.'" The Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain says, "In active sense, faith, belief, trust, confidence." (Abbott-Smith)

"A conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it: Heb. 11:1." (Thayer)

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By What MEANS Is One *Justified*?

- The righteousness of God that is revealed in the gospel is "*apart from the law*" (Romans 3:21).
- It is made known through faith in Jesus, and we are ***justified by His grace***. Romans 3:22, 24, 26
- No room to glory. Romans 3:27; Ephesians 2:8-9
 - NOTE: Abraham. Hebrews 11:17; Romans 4:2, 4
- All justified the same way. Romans 3:30.
- Access God's grace "***by faith***." Romans 5:1-2

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WHEN Are We Justified?

Blood is essential to justification.

- Romans 5:9, "*Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, shall we be saved from the wrath (of God) through him.*"
- Hebrews 9:22, "*And according to the law, I may almost say, all things are **cleansed with blood**, and apart from **shedding of blood** there is no remission.*"

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- Ephesians 1:7, "*in whom we have our **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace*"
- Ephesians 2:13, "*But now in Christ Jesus ye that once were far off are **made nigh in the blood of Christ.***"

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- Colossians 1:20, "*and through him to reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the **blood of his cross***"
- Hebrews 9:12, "*nor yet through the blood of goats and calves, but through **his own blood**, entered in once for all into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption ...*"
- Hebrews 9:14, "*... how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish unto God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*"

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- 1 Peter 1:2, "*... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of **the blood of Jesus Christ**: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.*"
- 1 Peter 1:18-19, "*... knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but **with precious blood**, as of a lamb without spot, (**even the blood**) of Christ*"
- 1 John 1:7, "*... but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus his Son** cleanseth us from all sin.*"

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- Revelation 1:5, "*... and from Jesus Christ, (who is) the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loveth us, and **loosed us from our sins by his blood***"
- Revelation 5:9, "*And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and didst **purchase unto God with thy blood** (men) of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation*"
- Revelation 7:14, "*And I say unto him, My lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb.***"
- Revelation 12:11, "*And they overcame him because of the **blood of the Lamb**, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even unto death.*"

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WHEN Are We Justified?

- **1 Peter 1:18-19 – Redeemed by blood.**
- **Colossians 1:19-22 – Reconciled by blood.**
- **Romans 5:9 – Justified by blood.**

- **One is justified when he comes in contact with the blood in baptism! Romans 6:3-4; 6:16-18**
- **Illustration: The Corinthians. cf. Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

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