

## Session 17: The Believer's Justification

### Part 1: The terms:

- **To be justified: δικαιόω**
  - **Romans 3:24-26**
  - **Romans 3:28**
  - **Romans 5:1, 9**
  - **Galatians 3:11**
  - **1 Corinthians 6:11**
- **Justification: δικαίωσις**
  - **Romans 4:25**
- **To be counted as righteous: λογίζομαι**
  - **Romans 4:3-5**

### Part 2: Definition: To be declared or counter righteous before God.

- **Romans 3:19-22**
- **Philippians 3:8-9**
  - This is a legal term anticipating a claim, a defense/prosecution, a standard, and a verdict.
  - Justification is instantaneous not gradual.
  - We are declared righteous not made righteous when we are justified.
  - Our justification is on the basis of imputed righteousness not infused righteousness.
  - It is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

### The significance of our justification:

- **Problem 1: How can a sinner be declared righteous before a holy God?**
  - **Ecclesiastes 7:20**
  - **Isaiah 64:6**
  - **Proverbs 17:15**
- **Problem 2: How can God forgive sin without compromising His justice?**
  - **Romans 3:24-26**
  - **Romans 4:5**
    - Christ removed our guilt.
    - He satisfied God's just response to our sin.
    - He paid the price for our redemption.
    - We have been declared righteous in Him.

### Part 3: The basis of our justification:

- **The shedding of Christ's blood:**

- **Cleansing:** "To declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past..."
- **Satisfaction:** "A propitiation through faith in his blood..."
- **Payment:** "Through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."
- **The imputed righteousness of Christ:** "That he might be just, and the justifier..."
  - **Romans 3:22**
  - **Romans 4:3-7**
  - **Philippians 3:8-9**

**Part 4: The means through which we are justified:** We are justified by faith alone.

- **Romans 3:28**
- **Romans 5:1**
- **Galatians 2:16**
- **Galatians 3:11, 24**

**Part 5: The difference between justification in James and Romans**

- **The point of James 2: Maturing faith can be verified: 2:21-23**
  - **Observation 1: We know when Abraham was declared righteous by God: Genesis 15**
    - **Romans 4:3**
    - **Galatians 3:6**
    - **James 2:23**
    - **Genesis 15:6**
  - **Observation 2: We know the means through which God made that declaration: "Abraham believed God..."**
  - **Observation 3: We know the basis by which we the observer can be unquestionably convinced of Abraham's faith.**
    - "Justified by works, when he had offered Isaac..."
    - "The scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God..."
    - "And he was called the Friend of God..."
  - **Explanation:** James was not looking at the moment that God, justified Abraham, but rather when we, the observer, became convinced that Abraham was truly a believer: **2:22** "Seest thou..."
- **The contrast between James and Romans: The way we are declared righteous before God and the way we are declared righteous before other people is different: 2:24: "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only..."**
  - **These verses reveal there are two different potential points of reference:**

- **God's Courtroom:** God counts us righteous in His courtroom on the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ
  - **Romans 3:19-24**
  - **Romans 4:4-8**
- **Man's Courtroom:** People count each other as righteous when they see the verifiable fruits of new life in Christ
  - **The example of Rahab: 2:25**
  - **The spies believed that Rahab had faith in the God of Israel, because she was willing to put her life on the line to assist them.**
  - **Our observable love for other Christians: John 13:35**
  - **Our observable growth into Christlikeness: 1 John 3:1-3**