

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



You Are Justified

Romans 8:30

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Have you ever stood before a judge or an authority figure, knowing you were completely in the wrong? Maybe it was in a traffic court, or maybe it was sitting in the principal's office as a child. In that moment, your heart pounds. You know the rules, you know you broke them, and you know you deserve the penalty.

The human heart understands justice, yet when we consider standing before the perfect holiness of God, strict justice is a terrifying thought.

Consider one of the most beautiful and powerful promises in the entire Bible. In Romans 8:30, the Paul writes: **"And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."**

Let us explore what it truly means to be justified by God.

Justification is the solid ground on which our relationship with God stands.

THE HEAVENLY COURTROOM

To understand Paul, you must think like a person from the first century and look at the original Greek words. In Romans 8:30, the Greek word for "justified" is a Roman courtroom word. Imagine standing in the highest court in the universe. The books are opened, and there is a revealing of everything you have ever done wrong. Perfect justice means punishment for all of it, because God misses nothing. Every thought, every hidden motive, and every secret act is weighed.

If you are standing there on your own, the verdict is obvious: guilty. The wages of sin is death. But when God justifies a person, a powerful legal exchange takes place. The judge bangs his gavel and says, "Not guilty! You are perfectly right with the law".

This would be absolutely startling.

How can a holy, perfectly just God look at a guilty person and exonerate them? He does not just ignore the sin. Because God is perfectly just, sin must be paid for; it cannot be ignored or swept under a rug. He can declare you righteous because the penalty has already been paid.

THE CALCULATION OF THE CROSS

It all comes down to two options at this point - either Jesus pays or you pay. Because God is perfectly just, sin must be paid for. The bad news is that you are guilty, and the debt is infinite. But the good news is that Jesus Christ stepped into the courtroom and offered to pay the debt Himself.

When you put your faith in Him, His perfect, sinless record is transferred to your account, and your sin is transferred to His cross. When God the Father looks at you, He no longer sees your failures or your brokenness. He sees the perfect obedience of His Son. You are justified. You are treated *just as if* you had never sinned.

Imagine you are caught driving 100 miles per hour in a school zone. You are pulled over, arrested, and brought before the judge. The fine is one million dollars, and you do not have a penny to your name. The judge is a good and just judge, so he must uphold the law. He looks at you and says, "The fine is one million dollars. Since you cannot pay, you must go to prison." That is perfect justice. But as the bailiff steps forward to take you away, a man walks into the back of the courtroom. It is the judge's own son. He walks up to the bench, pulls out a checkbook, and writes a check for one million dollars. He hands it to the clerk and announces that he is paying this debt on your behalf.

The judge bangs the gavel. "The debt has been paid. You are free to go." The law was upheld. Justice was satisfied. But you walk out of the courtroom completely free. That is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION

Because you are justified, your standing with God is permanently secure. You do not have to wake up every morning wondering if God is angry with you.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many Christians struggle because they still feel guilty. They replay their past mistakes and failures, acting as if they are still on trial. But if you are in Christ, the trial is over. The verdict has been read. The gavel has fallen. You are justified.

Conclusion

If you have been running from God, afraid of His judgment, stop running. The prison door is swinging open, but the Judge is offering you grace. You do not have to pay the penalty for your own sins. Jesus has already offered to pay it for you.

For those who have already accepted this gift, live in the freedom of your justification. Stop letting the enemy drag you back into the courtroom of condemnation. When the enemy reminds you of your past, remind him of the Judge's Son. Because He has justified you, He will one day glorify you.