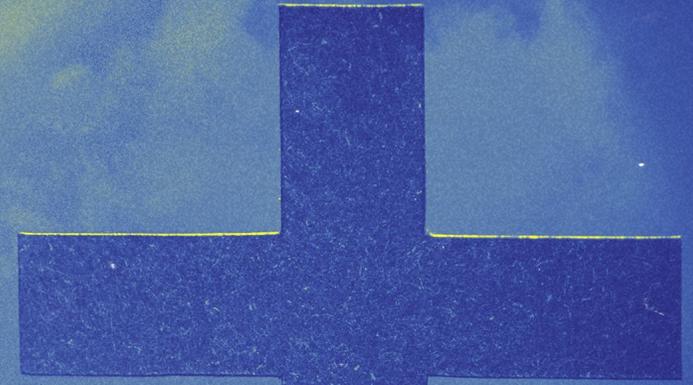


# SIN & THE CROSS



“Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm? **2** My servant grew up in the LORD’s presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. **3 He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.** We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. **He was despised, and we did not care.** **4** Yet it was our

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! **5** But **he was pierced for our rebellion**, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. **He was whipped so we could be healed.**”

**Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)**

**Acts 3:18–19 (NLT)** — “But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that **he must suffer these things.** **19** Now repent of your sins and turn to God, **so that your sins may be wiped away.”**

**1 Corinthians 2:1–4 (NLT)** — “When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan. **2** For I decided that while I was with you **I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified.** **3** I came to you in weakness — timid and trembling. **4** And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.”

# The Message of the Cross



The Message of  
the Cross is

**POWER  
OF GOD**





# SIN & THE CROSS

UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

**The Message of the Cross is... PROPITIATION**

## Work of Jesus on the Cross wholly:

- Satisfies God's holiness
- Exposes sin
- Appeased God's wrath directed toward our sin
- Tells us God is NOT angry with us



**SIN &  
THE CROSS**



# SIN & THE CROSS

UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

**The Message of the Cross is... REDEMPTION**

**Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)** — “He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.”

## Redemption says:

- We are free from sin's power
- Now we can serve God
- We are forgiven
- The stain of sin is gone

A large, solid blue cross is centered in the upper half of the image. The background is a gradient of blue, with a faint silhouette of a hand reaching upwards on the left side. The overall tone is spiritual and serene.

**SIN &  
THE CROSS**



# SIN & THE CROSS

UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

**The Message of the Cross is... JUSTIFICATION**

**Romans 5:8–9 (NKJV)** — “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

**Romans 3:23 (NLT)** — “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

Ephesians 2:1–3 (NLT) — “Once **you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.** **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, **obeying the devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature **we were subject to God’s anger**, just like everyone else.”

**Colossians 1:21 (NLT)** — “This includes you who were once far away from God. **You were his enemies**, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.”

**Titus 3:3 (NLT)** — “Once we, too, were **foolish** and **disobedient**. We were **misled** and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other.”

A wooden gavel with a dark, polished head and a light-colored handle lies diagonally across a white surface. A large, bold, red stamp with a double-line border is superimposed over the gavel, containing the word "GUILTY" in a serif font. The stamp is tilted to match the angle of the gavel. The background is a plain, light-colored surface with soft shadows cast by the gavel and the stamp.

**GUILTY**

**Galatians 3:11 (NLT)** — “So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, ‘It is through faith that a righteous person has life.’”

A wooden gavel with a dark, polished head and a lighter, textured handle lies diagonally across a white surface. Overlaid on the gavel is a large, bold, red stamp with a double-line border. The word "GUILTY" is written in a thick, serif font within the stamp.

**GUILTY**

**Penalty = Death**



## Justification

- that act of God whereby He declares **righteous** those who believe in Christ

## Justification

- that act of God whereby He declares **righteous** those who believe in Christ
- process by which sinful, guilty human beings are made **acceptable** to a holy God



SIN &  
THE CROSS

## Justification

- that act of God whereby He declares **righteous** those who believe in Christ
- process by which sinful, guilty human beings are made **acceptable** to a holy God
- it is a **declarative** act



SIN &  
THE CROSS



# SIN & THE CROSS

04 - THE MESSAGE... JUSTIFICATION

**Brings RELEASE from the Penalty**

**Romans 5:12–14 (NLT)** — “When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. **Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone**, for everyone sinned. **13** Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. **14** Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.”

**Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)** — “But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.”

**1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)** — “He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross **so that we can be dead to sin** and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)** — “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that **we could be made right with God through Christ.**”

**Romans 4:7 (NLT)** — “Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight.”

**Colossians 2:13 (NLT)** — “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then **God made you alive with Christ**, for he forgave all our sins.”



# SIN & THE CROSS

04 - THE MESSAGE... JUSTIFICATION

**Brings RESTORATION of God's Favor**

**Romans 1:18 (NLT)** — “But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.”



## The one who is justified:

- Becomes a **FRIEND** of God

**James 2:23 (NLT)** — “And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: ‘Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.’ **He was even called the friend of God.**”



## The one who is justified:

- Becomes a **FRIEND** of God
- Now has **PEACE** with God

**Romans 5:1 (NLT)** — “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, **we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.**”

## The one who is justified:

- Becomes a **FRIEND** of God
- Now has **PEACE** with God
- Is made a **HEIR** of God



SIN &  
THE CROSS

**Galatians 4:3–7 (NLT)** — “And that’s the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. **4** But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **5** God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. **6** And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ **7** Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, **God has made you his heir.**”



# SIN & THE CROSS

04 - THE MESSAGE... JUSTIFICATION

**Brings the IMPUTATION of Righteousness**



## impute

- to **attribute** to someone
- to **reckon** someone

**Philemon 18 (NLT)** — “If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me.”

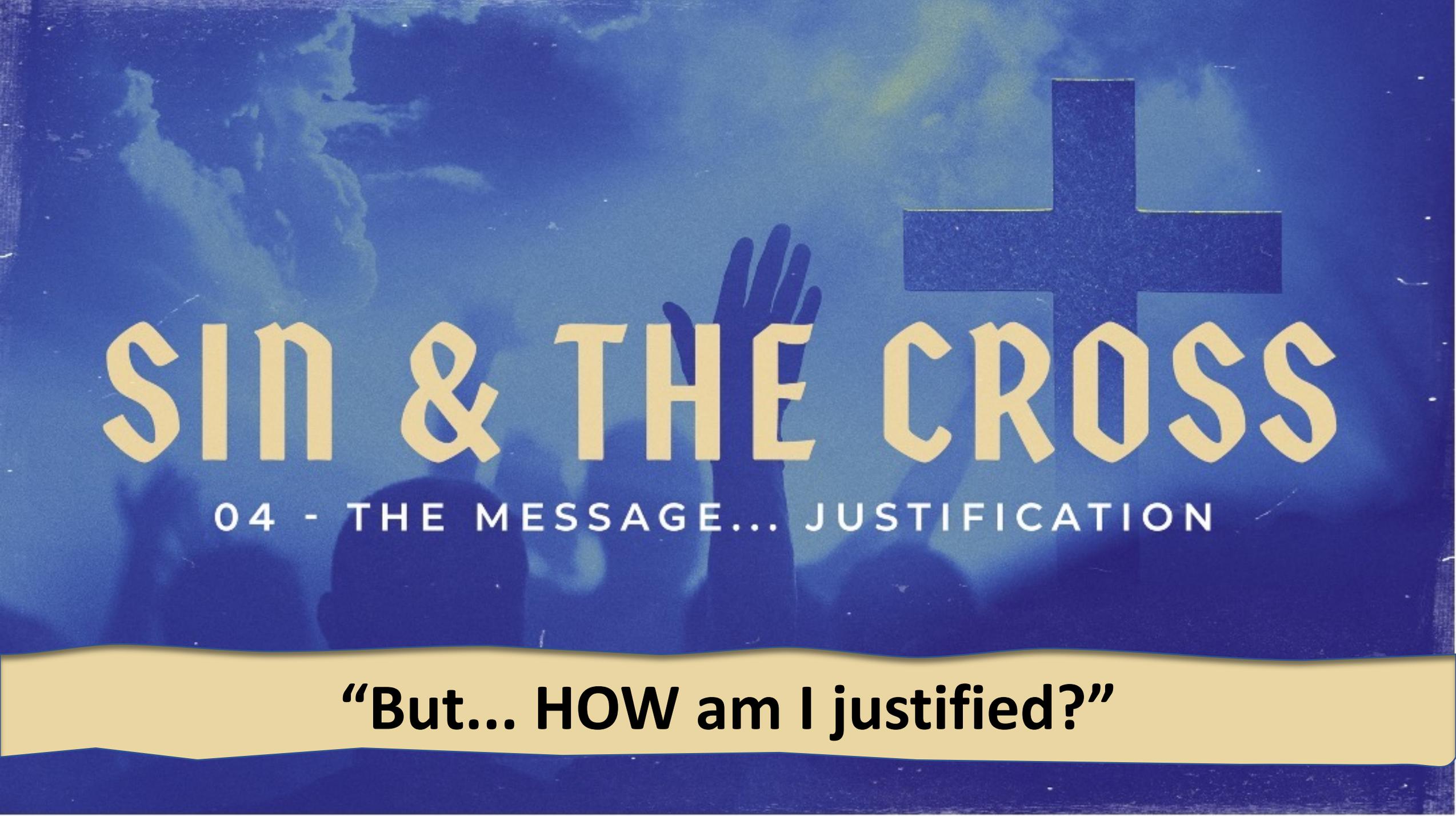
**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)** — “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, **so that we could be made right with God through Christ.**”

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** — “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

**1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT)** — “God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. **Christ made us right with God**; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.”



**We have been IMPUTED Christ's Righteousness!**



# SIN & THE CROSS

04 - THE MESSAGE... JUSTIFICATION

**“But... HOW am I justified?”**



I am justified:

- Not by a **WORK** of the **LAW**
- 
- 
-

**Galatians 2:16 (NLT)** — “Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And **we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ**, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”



## I am justified:

- Not by a **WORK** of the **LAW**
- By the **GRACE** of God
- 
-

Romans 3:24 (NKJV) — “being **justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...”



## I am justified:

- Not by a **WORK** of the **LAW**
- By the **GRACE** of God
- By the **BLOOD** of Jesus
-

**Romans 5:9 (NKJV)** — “Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”



## I am justified:

- Not by a **WORK** of the **LAW**
- By the **GRACE** of God
- By the **BLOOD** of Jesus
- By **FAITH**

**SIN &  
THE CROSS**

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) — “Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Galatians 2:16 (NKJV) — “...knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law **but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

The POWER of the Cross is  
**JUSTIFICATION**  
to Those of Us Who are  
Being Saved





# SIN & THE CROSS

04 - THE MESSAGE... JUSTIFICATION