

# WORD STUDY

## God's Justification

Sometimes people get the idea that God is somehow overlooking our sins when He justifies the ungodly. Not so. God never overlooks sin. He cannot. He is holy and His character demands righteousness. Considering that all of our best efforts and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, we are in a serious predicament. God does not justify the ungodly by looking the other way. Not at all. He justifies the ungodly by making up for what is lacking in them. They fall short but He makes up for the shortage through the accumulated righteousness of His Son, Jesus. Jesus fulfilled all righteousness for us so that He might become the righteousness of the law for us. He justifies us freely, but that free gift cost Him dearly.

## Justified Lines versus Unjustified Lines

### Unjustified Lines

Let me illustrate justification. Notice the sentences in this paragraph compared to the rest of the next paragraph. Each sentence is composed of letters, words, and spaces. None of the sentences comes to the exact end of the line. That is because they are never so perfectly balanced that they all come to the exact same place at the end of the line. Some leave one space, others five or six spaces, but they don't naturally come out perfect. The lines in this paragraph are unjustified. They fall short of reaching the end of the line perfectly.

This illustrates our sins. We don't all sin alike, but we know there is no one perfect, no not even one. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23) It is this "coming short" that stumped publishers when the printing press first came out. Paragraphs looked sloppy and unbalanced when ended abruptly. The right side of the page was always jagged. They wanted the page to look perfect, so they invented **"justification of the lines."**

### Justified Lines

Now look at this paragraph compared to the last. Look at your Bible, or just about any published book, and you will see that the right side of the page is perfect. All the letters and words of every sentence come to the exact same measure to the end of the line. That is justification. The printers used to manually put spacers of different thicknesses between each of the words to make the sentence come out just right. That is what God does with us. He justifies us. He doesn't just overlook our sins and shortcomings. He makes up what is lacking. Jesus did that for us. He satisfied the justice of God by living the perfect sinless life. Now God adds what He did for us to what we are lacking. That is the meaning of justification.

**You may feel like your life is all out of whack and that you can't possibly measure up. You may even be asking and feeling "How can a holy God love a person like me?" The answer is that God saw ahead and provided for what was lacking in you. He has made up the difference. He has made a provision whereby you can be *"presented faultless before his throne."* (Jude 1:24)**

# Justification

1344 dikaioo *dik-ah-yo'-o*

from 1342; TDNT-2:211,168; v

AV-justify 37, be freed 1, be righteous 1, justifier 1; 40

- 1) to render righteous or such he ought to be
- 2) to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered
- 3) to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

Matthew 11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Luke 7:29 And all the people that heard *him*, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

Luke 7:35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

Luke 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.)

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 3:26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Romans 5:1 ¶ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 5:16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

1 Corinthians 4:4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?