**Justification – Part 1**

**GOALS & GUIDELINES:**
**ICEBREAKER:  When something breaks, do you like to try to fix it yourself, or hire someone?**
**Worship**

**Scriptures: Luke 18:9-14**

Today we want to talk about a fancy theological term called “Justification”. Justification means to be declared righteous, to be made right with God.

Let’s look at a few scriptures that mention justification. (Have participants read) In Job 25:4, Bildad the Shuhite asks, “How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?” Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” Matthew 12:37 says “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” The contrast here is that the opposite of justification is condemnation. If we are justified, we are not condemned. We are viewed in the sight of God as “righteous”, and we have peace with God. We are not appointed to wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

In the parable of Luke 18 that we read, two men come to the house of God to pray. One walks away justified – the other not. One was made right in the sight of God – the other was not.

**Q** What is the difference between the two men? – one attempted to justify himself with his good works – the other completely humbled himself and surrendered himself to the mercy of God. He didn’t even try to justify or defend himself. The Pharisee trusted in himself for righteousness – he was good enough! The publican knew he wasn’t good enough and totally yielded himself to the mercy of God.

**Q:** Have you ever thought that God loved or accepted you because you were “being good” or “good enough” ?

**NOTE: I am in no way trying to teach that you can just throw good works out the window, ie., you never have to worry about that again, live it up, if it feels good do it, etc.** We should try to live righteously and holy…

 And yet...Self-JUSTIFICATION is self-righteousness, and the Bible says our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). It’s arrogance. Remember what Jesus said, “for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Put no confidence in the flesh - Phillipians 3:3 – WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES BY BEING GOOD ENOUGH. Let’s read Paul in Galatians 2:16,19-21.

Other scriptures: Romans 3:10, Romans 10:1-3, Revelations 5:1-10

**Q Who is our savior…us, or Jesus?** We aren’t the Savior – Jesus is. We couldn’t save ourselves – Jesus did! His Arm was strong enough. He is mighty to save!

### Scriptures

9And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14I 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.

**Luke 18:9-14**

### For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thessalonians 5:9

### But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6

10As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: **- Romans 3:10 KJV**

10 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. – **Romans 10:1-3 KJV**

### 3For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Phillipians 3:3

16Knowing 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.

19For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

20I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. **Galatians 2:16,19-21 KJV**

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-2.htm)And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? [**3**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-3.htm)And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-4.htm)And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.[**5**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-5.htm)And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.[**6**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-6.htm)And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-7.htm)And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-8.htm)And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-9.htm)And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [**10**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/5-10.htm)And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelations 5:1-10 KJV