

WRITE IT DOWN!

How Can We be Justified?

Getting Grace: A Study of Galatians

Galatians 2:15-21

March 16, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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I. What It Means to be *JUSTIFIED* . . .

To be JUSTIFIED is . . .

II. Why We Need to be *JUSTIFIED* . . .

A. Because of . . .

B. Because of . . .

C. Two Biblical definitions of sin . . .

1. Sin is . . .

2. Sin is . . .

III. How We Get *JUSTIFIED* . . .

A. Justification is AVAILABLE IN . . .

B. Justification is ACTUALIZED THROUGH . . .

C. Justification is POSSIBLE BY . . .

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Galatians 2:10-21 again? What's going on here? Who is the "we" used in v. 15? Where is the shift in the text? When do Paul's words to Peter end? Can you clearly tell?
2. When Paul refers to "sinners from among the Gentiles", is he saying that Jews are not sinners and don't sin? How do we know based on the text?
3. How many times does Paul use the word "justified" and in what verses? What does it mean to be "justified"?
4. Who needs to be justified? It's been said that the need for justification is expressed by Paul in general, personal, and universal terms in 2:16. What does that mean? And can you match the clauses of the verse with those concepts?
5. What are the two biblical ways to understand sin?
6. How are we not justified according to these verses? How are we justified according to these verses? How exactly does Jesus make available justification? What is preserved by his life and death? What is accomplished by his life and death? What of ours does he take? What of his do we get?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. How important of an issue was justification to Paul? How do we know based on the text? Why is justification a deemphasized, marginalized issue in the church today? What is causing that?
3. Why is our need for justification opposed and denied by those outside church like Oprah? What are two human responses to our biblical need for justification?
4. Often today Christian doctrine and Christian community are pitted against each other as if they were somehow different. How does this text demonstrate something different? What is the relationship between doctrine and community here?
5. What are your own perspective and feelings toward "doctrine"? Could you have articulated this doctrine of justification . . . what it means, why we need it and how we get it . . . before this message? Can you now? Do it now with someone in your group.