

## WORKS AND THE LAW WON'T DO IT

### Galatians 2:15-16

**Introduction:** If I keep the "golden rule" and be nice to people, whether I like them or not, then I'll go to heaven." "If I go to Sunday School, even stay for worship service every Sunday, then I'll be able to go to heaven, right?" An awful lot of people have the idea that by doing good things, keeping all the rules, then that qualifies them to go to heaven. Sadly, some "faiths" teach and practice that and that another person, a church official, can pray them into heaven or out of heaven and if you belong to the "right" church, then you will go to heaven. We can't get people into or out of heaven ourselves! Nobody down here can!

- 1. Everybody is in the same "boat." Everybody is imperfect, incomplete and short of God's glory.**
  - Everything that lives in God's presence MUST be perfect, totally complete.
  - God is the very image of perfection, completeness and fullness, therefore anything less than perfection and total completeness cannot stand in God's presence.
- 2. There is nothing anyone can do nor is there any law that if kept will make anybody perfect.**
  - Nobody who is imperfect can ever do anything perfect nor make anybody else perfect.
  - Everybody is short of God' standards of perfection so no matter what we try to do, we will still be imperfect, better perhaps, but still imperfect.
- 3. Nobody can be saved by their own works or by keeping any kind of a law.**
  - How/what can an imperfect person ever do anything that would make him/her a perfect person?
  - If anybody is ever to be "justified" before God, accepted as perfect and complete, it won't be by their keeping any laws. (*Romans 3:19-20*)
- 4. If there's nothing we can do to be accepted in God's eyes, then what is our hope?**
  - God says that there is ONE way and that one way is to believe in Jesus Christ.
- 5. "Justification" is a big sounding word, just what does it mean?**
  - It means to treat someone as if he/she were actually perfect, complete, although he/she really isn't.
  - It means to look upon someone as being "righteous" NOT make them righteous, but to just treat them as if he/she were.
- 6. Why is "Justification" necessary anyhow?**
  - Because our sins separate us from God. We live as if we don't need God anyhow.
  - God is angry over the way we live, over our sinfulness, over our hostility, over our unrighteousness, over our ungodliness, over our deserting Him. God a lot of reasons for not wanting to be around us like we are.
  - How, then can we get back right with God as we should be if there's nothing we can do ourselves?
- 7. Why does God want anything to do with us anyhow?**
  - God still loves us in spite of the way we act to each other and especially to Him.
  - God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus into our world to make a way to JUSTIFY us.

- Although we are not righteous, God wants to consider us as being righteous and He can through His Son, Jesus, IF we will believe in Jesus Christ, that God can use our faith to count that as being righteous, even if it's Jesus' righteousness.
- Because of what Jesus Christ has done for us, God can now say that anyone who believes in His Son is JUSTIFIED.
  - Jesus was perfect when He came here, lived a perfect life while He was here, never broke any of God's laws, never went contrary to God's will, so Jesus is the IDEAL person and is how God wants us all to be.
- Jesus came to die for us. As the IDEAL person, Jesus could then take all our sins upon Himself and die for us. His death could stand for our death. He exchanged places with us.
- Jesus came also to rise from the dead, so His death and resurrected life could stand for our life.

**8. Complicated, yes, but if we believe in Jesus Christ, God takes our belief and:**

- counts it as our righteousness.
- counts it as our sin penalties being paid for.

**9. God can therefore "honor" us because we have honored His Son by believing in Him.**

- God honors us by taking our faith in Jesus and counting it as righteousness and thus gives us the privilege of living forever in Heaven with Him and His Son, Jesus.

**10. So, how does God do all this? Complicated!**

- Simplified in words it means "**justification.**"
- A guilty person, having rebelled against God, broken his/her relationship with God, has no way of restoring that broken relationship by him/herself but Jesus paid the penalty, did all that was necessary to restore that broken relationship and what Jesus did was attributed to that guilty person, therefore, although still guilty, condemned, is DECLARED innocent upon that person's belief in Jesus Christ.
- Simply put, but complicated in detail, when a person sincerely trusts/believes in Jesus Christ, God takes the faith of that person in His Son, and counts that person as being righteous. STILL GUILTY, but DECLARED INNOCENT - that's God's Grace.

**11. *Romans 3:19-20; Genesis 15:6; Romans 5:1***

**CONCLUSION:**

1. There's no use in trying to get to God through our own righteousness and works. But, we can believe that Jesus Christ is God's gift of righteousness to whosoever believes and that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to provide the ONLY way for us to ever be **JUSTIFIED** and made **RIGHTEOUS** and restored to fellowship, relationship with God.

**2. *Romans 10:4***