

Session 4 – JUSTIFIED

All who accept the gospel by faith are justified before the Father.

KEY DOCTRINE: *Man*

By his free choice man sinned against God and brought Sin into the human race (1 John 1:8-10).

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UNDERSTAND **THE CONTEXT** – Rom. 3:21-4:25

- God's righteousness is available to all who believe.
 - God will justify them through faith (Rom. 3:22).
 - There is no distinction in our sinful state (Rom. 3:23).
 - Righteousness is achieved by God's grace through His redemption of us through Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:24).
 - Jesus was offered as atonement for our sins demonstrating God's righteous dealing with sin (Rom. 3:25-26).
 - Paul established that God is God of Jews and Gentiles.
 - God would justify both of them through faith.

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UNDERSTAND **THE CONTEXT** – Rom. 3:21-4:25

- **We are all sinners justified by faith.**
- Paul questioned if faith nullified the law.
- His answer was no.
- Paul concluded using Abraham as an example of justification by faith.
- Paul ended by reminding us that faith is counted as righteousness for those who believe (Rom. 4:24)

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 3:21-24)
 - Paul uses **but now** to reference the previous verse 21.
 - No one can keep the law perfectly.
 - No one lives a life worthy of God's righteousness.
 - The law made known the presence of sin.
 - **Apart from (or without) the law the righteousness of God has been made known**
 - **Righteous of God** - God's saving activity in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 3:21-24)
 - God's righteousness made known to all believers without complying to the regulations of the law (Matt. 5:17-20).
 - **The Law and the Prophets** (the Old Testament) bears witness to God's righteousness.
 - **Right standing (righteousness) before God not accomplished by our own efforts under the law.**
 - It's only accomplished through our faith in God's righteousness, Jesus Christ.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 3:21-24)
 - The Old Testament attests to God's action in providing righteousness.
 - In verse 22, Paul says **This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ.**
 - **Jesus is the object of our (believer's) faith.**
 - The righteousness of God was revealed through the faithfulness of Jesus to the Father.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 3:21-24)
 - The righteousness of God revealed through our faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
 - It's for **all who believe.**
 - Paul emphasized **there is no difference (or distinction) between Jew and Gentile** because of the sinful state of all people.
 - Paul described their sinful relationship in verse 23.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 21-24)
 - Paul said **all have sinned**, all are guilty and stand under God's judgment.
 - They **all fall short of the glory of God**, the glory they were created to enjoy in the beginning (Gen. 1:26).
 - Paul pointed out in verse 24 that **all are justified freely by His grace**.
 - **Justified** – God's act of declaring us not guilty for our sins.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 3:21-24)
 - We deserve God's judgment because of our sinful nature.
 - God declared us **justified (not guilty)** for our sins through **Jesus Christ, our Lord**.
 - This was done **freely by God's "grace"** – His unmerited love for something we could not attain on our own merit or effort.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Through Faith** (Rom. 3:21-24)
 - Paul said our justification came **through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**
 - **Redemption** - to purchase back something that had been lost by the payment of a ransom.
 - Paul put **Christ** before **Jesus** to emphasize His authority as the Messiah, the Chosen One.
 - Jesus fully paid the ransom for our sins with His life.
 - ***What word or phrase in verse 24 stands out most to you?***

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **In Jesus** (Rom. 3:25-26)
 - Paul's main point: **God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement.**
 - **God initiated the entire process of redemption.**
 - **Sacrifice of Atonement** – appears one other time in the New Testament (Heb. 9:5) referring to the covering on the Ark of the Covenant where the high priest sprinkled the blood of a goat on it during the Day of Atonement.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **In Jesus** (Rom. 3:25-26)
 - This covering was the mercy seat where God accomplished the atonement for the people's sins.
 - **God presented** means that He made a public display of Christ as the atoning sacrifice for our sins on the cross.
 - Sprinkling of the goat's blood was done behind the curtain of the Holy of Holies, but God did Christ's sacrifice public.
 - **Through the shedding of His blood** on the cross, we benefit through our faith in Him.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- In Jesus (Rom. 3:25-26)
 - Paul said **God did this to demonstrate His righteousness**
 - **Demonstrate** means to prove or to show.
 - We can see God's righteousness at work in the cross.
 - The reason why God demonstrated His righteousness was **because in His forbearance (His restraint) He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.**
 - Those **sins committed beforehand** were those committed before Jesus' death on the cross.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **In Jesus** (Rom. 3:25-26)
 - God's restraint allowed people to experience the kindness of God that leads to repentance (Rom. 2:4)
 - Jesus' sacrifice of atonement demonstrates the righteousness of God in this present time.
 - God justifies, declares righteous, **those who have faith in Jesus**. Our righteousness is secure in Christ.
 - *How would you explain Jesus' atoning sacrifice for our sins to a person who is not a believer?*

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **For All People** (Rom. 3:27-31)
 - Paul addresses the subject of **boasting** in defense of being justified by faith
 - **All boasting is not bad.**
 - In Rom. 5:2 Paul said **we boast in the hope and glory of God.** This is good boasting.
 - To boast of your right standing with God is excluded.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **For All People** (Rom. 3:27-31)
 - Paul's use of the word **law** here, in this case, is believed to mean “**principle**”.
 - He compares the principle of works to the principle of faith.
 - His point is the law of works and the law of faith opposes each other.
 - **A law of faith precludes all boasting.**
 - **The law (or principle) that requires faith** meant the only way a person could be justified before God was **by faith**.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **For All People** (Rom. 3:27-31)
 - Paul ended verse 28 by reaffirming that a person could not be justified by **the works of the law** (Rom. 5:20).
 - Paul pointed out that God must be God of both Jews and Gentiles since God is one.
 - He concluded God would **justify the Jews and Gentiles** both by their faith.
 - He said **the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith** are justified through Christ's atonement.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **For All People (Rom. 3:27-31)**
 - Paul asked **Do we, then nullify the law by this faith?”**
 - His answer was **Not at all!**.
 - Paul said we are to **uphold the law.**
 - The requirement of the law is fulfilled by those who walk by the spirit and not by the flesh (Rom. 8:3-4).
 - ***How does salvation being offered to all impact how believers should relate to other people?***

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Including Abraham (Rom. 4:1-3)**
 - Paul used Abraham as an example of being justified by faith.
 - He questioned them asking, **What then shall we say that Abraham our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter?**
 - Abraham demonstrated that justification came by faith.
 - Abraham was esteemed for his relationship with God.
 - Paul said **If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about, but not before God.**

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Including Abraham (Rom. 4:1-3)**
 - Paul still making comparison between justification by faith and justification by works.
 - **The same God that justified Abraham by faith is the same God who justified the Gentiles and Jews by faith.**
 - Paul used Gen. 15:6 for his support, **Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness**
 - This is the first time the word **believe** is used in the Bible and it's connected with **righteousness**.

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

- **Including Abraham (Rom. 4:1-3)**
 - **Credited** is a business term meaning to apply or add to one's account.
 - Abraham deposited his belief in God's Words and was obedient to Him.
 - God recorded that faith as a credit to his account.
 - **Abraham's debt was paid in full by his faith in God just as ours is paid through our faith in Christ.**
 - *How does the faith of Abraham compare to the faith required of believers today?*

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IN MY CONTEXT

- God gives salvation freely to anyone who places their faith in Jesus.
- God declares those who place their faith in Jesus to be righteous.
- Since all are saved through faith in Jesus, boasting is excluded.
- Faith is the only path to God.

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Closing Remarks

Acknowledge Visitors

Next Sunday's Lesson: "AT PEACE"