

# **“How to Enjoy the Bible”**

**Week #4 December 27 , 2015 “Justification: A Word We Simply Cannot Live Without! ”**

## **Review**

- **Regarding Inspiration & Interpretation of God’s word**
  - **2 Tim. 3:16-17**
  - **2 Pet. 1:20-21**
  
- **Regarding a proper study of the word of truth**
  - **We have seen some clear contrasts in comparing the Old Testament with the New Testament and in comparing the Gospels with Paul.**
  - **We will continue today with this comparison.**

**Let’s try to keep in mind Coverdale’s list of questions:**

- **What is written? Of whom, to whom, using what words, at what time, etc.**
- **Literal and contextual interpretation is key then, not some kind of allegorical or so-called “spiritualizing” of the text as has been so common over the years.**

**Why are these principles of study important? Your thoughts?**

**My thoughts:**

- **The Lord is communicating through his word TRUTH**
- **Therefore the word must be interpreted carefully and literally.**
  - **God’s goals are:**
    - **To draw the lost to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ**
    - **To bring knowledge and understanding to believers**
- **God is NOT trying to communicate FEELINGS!**

***So far in applying this principle we have compared Luke 18:18-30 & Eph. 2:1-10 and then Num. 15:32-36 & Lev. 24:10-23.***

***We finished last time with an examination of Rom. 6:14 and Gal. 3:10:***

- ***[READ ] Rom. 6:14*** “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”
- ***[READ ] Gal. 3:10*** “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”

***What we saw revealed in those portions of scripture was the great contrast in God’s mind between law and grace. Mixing them is simply not an option, at least not if we are intending to interpret scripture literally and “take God at his word.”***

***TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD IS CRITICAL IF WE WOULD ENJOY THE BIBLE!***

***TODAY, Our Key Scriptures Are These:***

- ***[READ ] Gal. 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.”
- ***[READ ] Rom. 3:28*** “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”
- ***[READ ] Gal. 3:11-12*** “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.”

- **[READ ] Gal. 5:4** “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

**Let’s examine these scriptures carefully. Before we do, what stands out here? What “jumps off the page”, as it were?**

**Gal. 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.”

**What does this say specifically?**

- **The contrast is stated most powerfully between works of law and faith - this is as black and white as it could possibly be in the apostle’s mind.**
  - **This topic is a major focus of this letter to the Galatians and a major focus of the Apostle Paul’s life & ministry.**
  - **In fact, the apostle was called and sent forth by the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (not to the Jews, as were the Twelve) with this express message of justification by grace through faith alone, not works of law.**
- **So, according to Paul, JUSTIFICATION is not attained by works but only by faith!**
- **BUT What is JUSTIFICATION? Any thoughts based on this one verse? This is a big word and it is a word central to the Protestant Reformation, isn’t it?**
- **Justifcation == A declaration of righteousness**

- ***This is not of ourselves. It is the work of God, his work in declaring us righteous***
- ***Not of our works therefore.***
- ***Christ's own righteousness is complete regarding our works in his death on our behalf.***
- ***From this springs the doctrines concerning "positional" truth, being "in Christ" we have many blessings indeed!***
- ***How transforming would this be? Consider Luther and the great reformation. It was the doctrine of justification by faith alone (called "sola fides"), that was at the center of the Reformation.***
  - ***Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")***
  - ***Sola fide ("by faith alone")***
  - ***Sola gratia ("by grace alone")***

***[YOUR COMMENTS?]***

- ***A comment on the doctrine of Illumination is also in order here.***
- ***A great deal rests upon the teaching of the apostle regarding "Justification".***
- ***But we must UNDERSTAND it or we will not have salvation. Amen.***

***Now we will proceed with several more key scriptures:***

***Gal. 3:11-12*** "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them."

- ***What does it say about the basis of justification?***

- ***What does this say about the relationship between law and faith?***

***[YOUR COMMENTS?]***

***Rom. 3:28*** “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

- ***Again, what is the relationship between justification and the works required by the Law of Moses?***

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

- ***So, we must conclude that we are not being exhorted today to go to the law for detailed instructions concerning God’s expectations for believers today.***
- ***No, rather, we are to go to Paul for his teaching regarding the glory of God’s grace in our JUSTIFICATION.***
- ***We MUST take him seriously enough that the truth of grace makes a significant difference in our lives. If we do so, we will also find that our enjoyment in our study of the Bible is also greatly enhanced, praise God!***

***It is, of course, necessary for us to understand what these words mean.***

- ***G R A C E: God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense!! A good definition, and easy to remember too!***
- ***JUSTIFICATION: To be declared righteous before a righteous and holy God [of course, solely upon the sufficiency of the shed blood, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ].***

***Let me say just a little more before concluding our fellowship today. Law demands obedience and promises blessings for obedience according to its terms or punishment for disobedience also as defined by its terms***

- ***Mercy under law was a common reality for otherwise all would have been judged as law breakers.***
- ***The sacrificial system was given as God's way for sins to be "covered" temporarily so that A VERY LIMITED ACCESS TO GOD might be still possible. This was a religious system based on the ceremonial system that God had instituted under Moses.***
- ***Under Law Grace was sometimes given but was not a normal occurrence, WITHIN AND UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LAW.***
- ***So grace was found under the law but was not "in" the law.***
- ***INDEED, TODAY JUSTIFICATION is a free gift obtained by faith alone and only by faith. Through justification we receive "every spiritual blessing" through Christ's accomplished work once and for all.***

## **CONCLUSIONS**

***So, we have seen that Paul is quite serious about the great gulf between law and grace. And rightly so. He had previously lived under the law and understood it better than others perhaps by being a pharisee of the pharisees, but he was willing to leave it and his heritage as a Jew of Jews completely behind once he grasped on to the full magnitude of the meaning of God's unlimited grace.***

***Paul was willing. Are we?***

***This lesson has been all about “JUSTIFICATION”. This is a very large word that many might like to leave behind, but we cannot. Paul could not and he was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and at Christ’s command and instruction.***

***How important do you think our JUSTIFICATION was for God the Father? God the Son? God the Holy Spirit? WHAT WAS REQUIRED TO SECURE IT FOR US?***

***How important is it to us?***

### **CONCLUDING SCRIPTURE**

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

***These are strong words indeed.***

***How can anyone ENJOY THE BIBLE without any understanding? Only religiously, of course, but NOT SPIRITUALLY.***

***“May God help me”, Luther’s words at the Diet of Worms.***