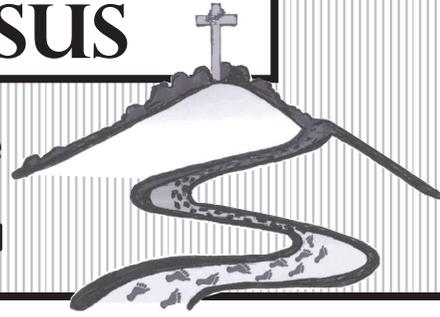


TO BE LIKE JESUS

Parent Resource Page Lesson 9: SALVATION: JUSTIFICATION



Themes:

- ◆ All sinners are guilty before God and the punishment is death and hell.
- ◆ Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness.
- ◆ Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice for sin in order to satisfy the righteousness of God.
- ◆ Justification is a legal act of God in which He forgives sin, gives to us Jesus' righteousness, and sees us as righteous in His sight.
- ◆ Justification is through faith in Jesus.
- ◆ Everyone who is justified by Jesus will receive eternal life.

Scripture:

Luke 23:39-43; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23a; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:1

Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 5:1

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Take it to heart: What thoughts and feelings do you have when you see a cross? What does Jesus' death mean to you? Do you think that what Jesus did on the cross is very important and precious? Why or why not? Have you asked God to make this truth precious to you?

Read Romans 5:1-2. Notice the words: justified (forgiveness of sin, given the righteousness of Jesus, seen as "not guilty" by God), faith (trusting in Jesus alone), and grace (God's undeserved kindness toward us). What does it mean to be at peace with God? Do you feel at peace with God? Why or why not? What has Jesus done so that you can be at peace with God? Have you responded to Jesus in faith?

Pretend you had to go to court today and God Himself was the judge. Would God say to you, "You are a guilty sinner. Your punishment is death and hell!"? Or, are you confident that God would say, "You are not guilty and will receive eternal life and enjoy Me forever!"? What will determine how God judges you? Could you say to Him, "I tried really hard to be good," "I went to Sunday school almost every week," "I sang in the choir," or "I memorized 100 Bible verses"? What alone can justify you and make you right with God? Recall Ephesians 2:8-9. Remember: Justification is a gift of God's grace to sinners. There is nothing you can do to earn it. Jesus did all the work. You can receive His justifying work through faith—by trusting in Jesus alone just like the criminal on the cross. Are you trusting in Jesus or are you trying to work at getting right with God? Will you succeed if you try to earn God's favor?

Pray about it: When you see and understand what Jesus has done for sinners by His death on the cross, how should you respond? Is there any greater gift someone could give you? Could anyone love you more than this? Is anyone more precious than Jesus? Pray about your response.