

CHAPTER 4

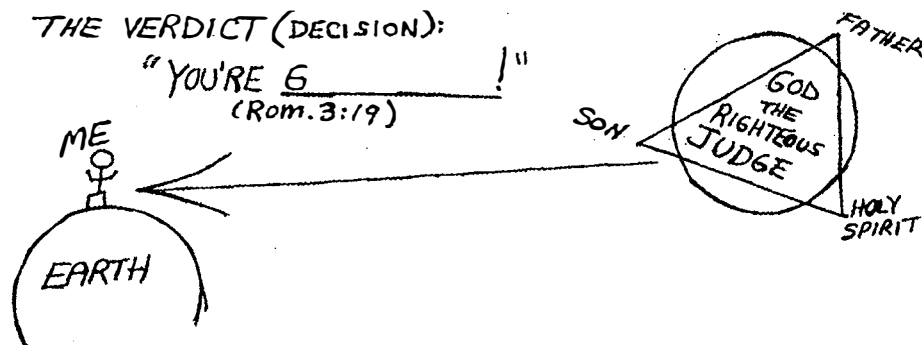
The Glorious Truth Of Justification

To understand what the Bible teaches on the subject of JUSTIFICATION, it is helpful to picture in our minds a courtroom scene with GOD Himself as the "J _____ of all the E _____" (Genesis 18:25). With this in mind, we shall now consider the five great facts which help us to understand the true meaning of JUSTIFICATION:

FACT NUMBER 1--All men are guilty and condemned before God.

Consider carefully Romans 3:9-19 where we see ourselves just as God sees us (the God who is perfectly holy and absolutely righteous). According to verse 10, are you RIGHTEOUS or UNRIGHTEOUS? _____ (Note: When you think of the word "justification" or "justify" you should think of the word "RIGHTEOUS." In the Bible, the word "just" means "righteous" and thus we could think of the word "justification" as meaning "rightification," to coin our own word. The word "justify" means "to declare or consider righteous." How can an unrighteous man become a righteous man? This is the key question because God will accept nothing less than absolute and perfect righteousness!)

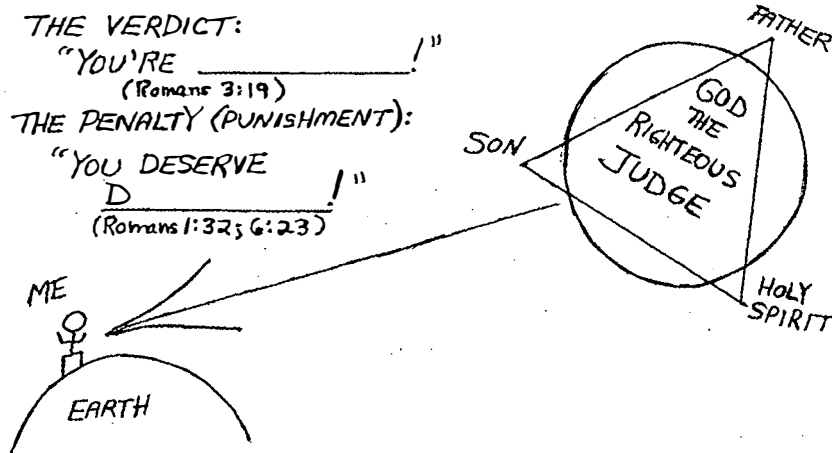
Read Romans 3:19. As we stand before God the Righteous Judge, is the verdict "GUILTY" or "NOT GUILTY"? _____ How many men and women share this same verdict (Romans 3:23)? _____



FACT NUMBER 2--The penalty for sin is death.

Not only are we guilty, but there is a penalty involved. In Romans 1:29-31 we find a terrible list of sins. As you honestly consider this list, have you done any of these things? We learn in Romans 1:32 that those who commit such *things* (the things mentioned in verses 29-31) are worthy of _____. In Ezekiel 18:4 we read that the person who sins shall _____. Therefore, because of our sin we deserve (circle one): a. a \$600 fine b. 5 weeks in prison c. 10 years in prison d. the death penalty. Because of my sin I deserve the _____ penalty. In Genesis 2:17 we find that the penalty for Adam's sin was also the _____ penalty. What are the wages of sin (Romans 6:23)? _____. If you were paid \$8.00 per hour and you worked a 40 hour week, then how much money do you **deserve** to be paid that week? _____. If your boss were fair and honest, then your wages for that week would be _____. God the righteous Judge **knows** exactly what

we have earned for ourselves as we live in sin each day and God's Word tells us that the wages of _____ is _____ (Rom. 6:23).



What is this death penalty? We must remember that this death (Romans 6:23) is more than just physical death. This "so great death" involves SPIRITUAL DEATH and SPIRITUAL DEATH consists mainly of two things: 1) SEPARATION FROM GOD; 2) PUNISHMENT BY GOD. The following verses speak of spiritual death (hell, which is also called "the second death"). For each verse write down the part of the verse that indicates separation from God and also the part that indicates that punishment is involved:

2 THESSALONIANS 1:9

SEPARATION _____
 PUNISHMENT _____

MATTHEW 25:41

SEPARATION _____
 PUNISHMENT _____

MATTHEW 25:46

SEPARATION _____
 PUNISHMENT _____

REVELATION 20:15

SEPARATION _____
 PUNISHMENT _____

FACT NUMBER 3--The penalty *must* be paid.

God the righteous Judge cannot say, "You deserve the death penalty, but because I'm a merciful God I'll forget about that and I'll let you live!" If God were to do that, it's true He would be merciful, but He would no longer be Just, He would no longer be holy and He would no longer be righteous! Can God stop being what HE IS? _____ (see Malachi 3:6)

Imagine a human judge saying to a criminal, "I know you robbed that bank and shot the teller at the window but because I'm so merciful I'll forget it ever happened and I'll let you go free!" Would such a judge be exercising justice? _____ Do criminals deserve to be punished? _____

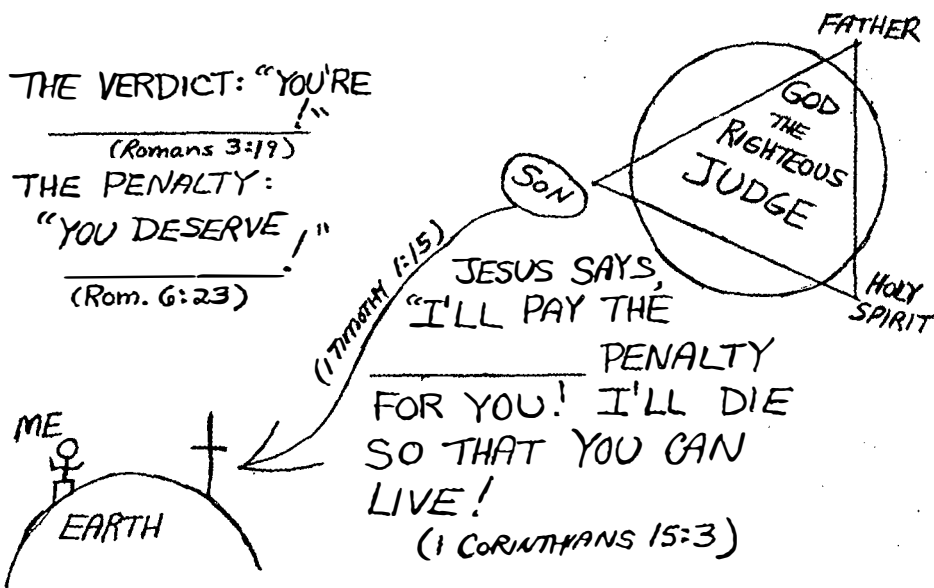
Consider Deuteronomy 25:1-2. If a person is righteous (innocent) then the judge should **justify him** (declare him to be innocent). If the person is innocent then the judge should say, "You're NOT guilty!" If the person is guilty, then he should be condemned. In Old Testament times, if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, should the judge let him go unpunished (Deuteronomy 25:2)? _____

Many non-Christians say, "How can a loving God send a person to hell?" But they forget that God is the Judge of the Universe and He must exercise justice! It would be silly for someone to say, "How can a loving judge send a criminal to jail?" A human judge may be very loving and kind, but he is still responsible and obligated to carry out justice and guilty ones deserve to be punished! That's THE LAW!

FACT NUMBER 4--Christ paid the penalty as our Substitute.

We deserve the D_____ penalty and this penalty must be paid. We are all condemned sinners deserving an eternal death in the LAKE OF FIRE which is called the _____ (see Revelation 20:14 and 21:8). BUT, God sent His beloved Son into the world, not to _____ the world, but that the world through Him might be _____ (John 3:17).

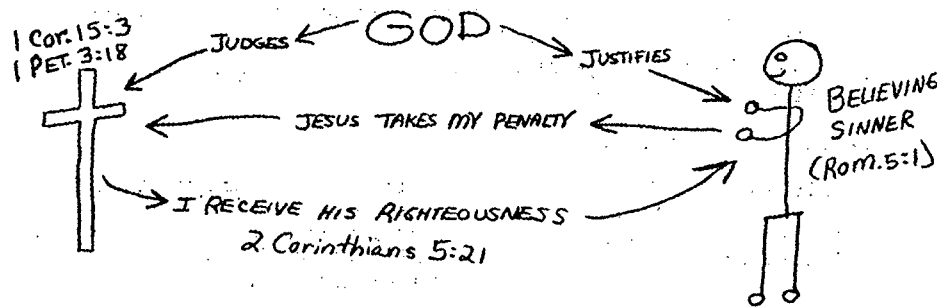
When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, did He experience SEPARATION FROM GOD (Matthew 27:46 and Psalm 22:1-3)? _____ Did He experience PUNISHMENT BY GOD (Isaiah 53)? _____ He suffered the very thing which we deserved to suffer! He paid the penalty that we should have paid.



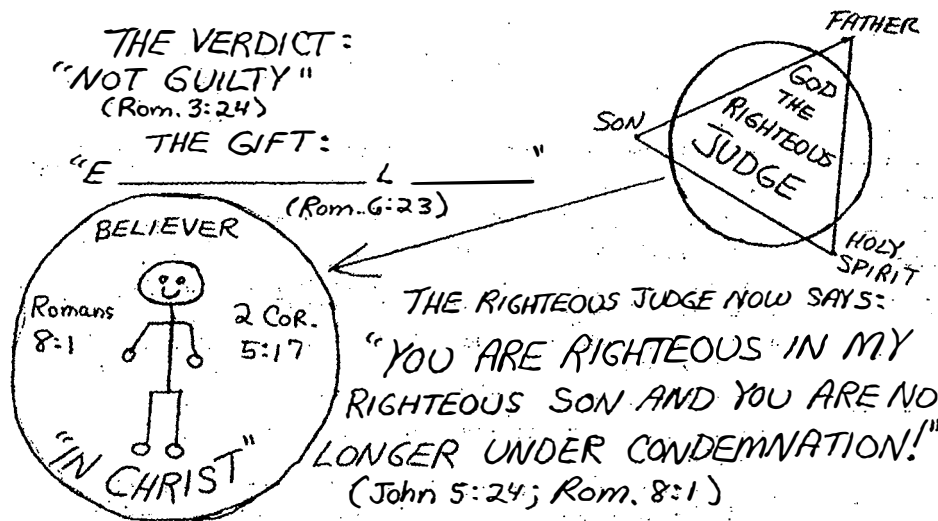
Consider these verses: 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:6,8 and 1 Peter 3:18. Who paid the penalty for our sins? _____ Who *deserved* to pay this penalty and who *should have* paid this penalty? _____

FACT NUMBER 5--God declares the believing sinner to be righteous in Christ.

When a person really believes the first **FOUR FACTS**, God does a wonderful thing. We read in Romans 4:3: "Abraham _____ God, and it was _____ unto him for _____." What does the word "it" refer to in verse 3 (see verse 5)?



Although we are not righteous in ourselves, when a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, God sees him as righteous **IN CHRIST**. We are righteous because we are **IN** God's righteous Son! "But of Him are ye _____ Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and _____" (1 Cor. 1:30). Because God sees us in his Son we are righteous: "For He (God the Father) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the _____ of God **IN HIM**" (2 Cor. 5:21). We are no longer guilty, condemned sinners because we are now **IN CHRIST**:



Because God in His grace has *justified me* (declared me to be righteous in His righteous Son--"just as if I had never sinned"), what kind of life should I now live? Read Titus 2:11-14 and circle the correct answer:

- It doesn't really matter how I live because God sees me as perfectly righteous in Christ.
- Now that God has declared me righteous I want to live a righteous life--living right, acting right, thinking right and speaking right!
- Now that I am justified I should live the same way I lived before I was saved.

MATCH the following:

- | | | |
|----------|---|---|
| 1. _____ | This is what the natural man would say (compare 1 Cor. 2:14). | A. "I'll never forget what Christ has done for me on the cross and I want to live a righteous life day by day so that I might please the God who saved me." |
| 2. _____ | This is what the saved man would say. | B. "It really does not matter how a person (believer) lives or acts because God has forgiven all his sins and has declared Him to be righteous in Christ." |

DO YOU WANT TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO TOOK YOUR DEATH PENALTY AND SET YOU FREE FROM ALL CONDEMNATION?

IF HE WAS WILLING TO DIE FOR YOU, ARE YOU NOT WILLING TO LIVE FOR HIM? See Romans 6:13-18 and notice the word "righteousness"!

Please answer TRUE or FALSE:

- _____ All men are guilty before God, but because God is loving and merciful there is no penalty for our guilt.
- _____ The wages of sin is a free trip to heaven.
- _____ The death penalty means only that we must die physically.
- _____ A Holy God must judge and punish sin.
- _____ All men will spend eternity in the lake of fire.
- _____ No one will spend eternity in the lake of fire.
- _____ The lake of fire is called the second death which involves separation from a Holy God and eternal punishment.
- _____ A fair and righteous judge is one who does not punish the criminal.
- _____ Jesus the Righteous One died for unrighteous me.
- _____ God showed His great love towards us by forgetting about our sin.
- _____ I believe with all my heart that the Lord Jesus Christ paid the death penalty for my sin and I'll always be thankful for what He did for me on the cross.

TEN ASPECTS OF JUSTIFICATION

1. The *Need* of Justification: All men lack and need the righteousness of God (Rom. 3:10; Isa. 64:6).
2. The *Meaning* of Justification: the term means “to declare or to pronounce righteous” (*not* “to make righteous”). It is a judicial term (Deut. 25:1) and its opposite is “condemnation” (Rom. 5:16-19).
3. The *Problem* of Justification: How can God be just and at the same time justify the believing sinner? (Rom. 3:26; Rom. 4:5). This is a problem that only the grace of god could solve.
4. The *Basis* of Justification: “justified *by His blood*” (Rom. 5:9). The cross-work of Christ is the one and only basis for justification (2 Cor. 5:21).
5. The *Source* of Justification: “justified freely *by His grace*” (Rom. 3:24). It’s all of God and all of grace!
6. The *Channel* of Justification: “justified *by faith*” (Rom. 3:28; 5:1). The free gift of God’s righteousness must be received and personally appropriated (Rom. 5:17).
7. The *Example* of Justification: “Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4).
8. The *Result* of Justification: God’s perfect righteousness is put to the account of the believing sinner. As a result he is free from condemnation and has peace with God (Rom. 4:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:7; Rom. 5:1; 8:1).
9. The *Evidence* of Justification: “justified *by works*” (James 2:14-22). This is how Christians “show their faith” and prove to men the reality of their justification.
10. The *Hope* (future expectation) of Justification: “whom He justified, them He also *glorified*” (Rom. 8:30). It is guaranteed and in the mind of God it is already done!