

JUST WORDS PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS



Justification Week of Sept. 18th

THE MAIN POINT

Justification is God's work of making unrighteous people right. He does this by means of the payment of Jesus Christ.

KEY TEACHINGS

- Justification is legal language coming from the same word for "righteous." "Justify" is the verb to "righteous" as noun.
- Humans attempt to self-justify. Blame, works, and bargaining.
- Justice requires that someone pays. In God's justification, he pays. Propitiation means that a blood price is paid to free from guilt.

Weekly Bible Readings

- Monday: Romans 3:1-8**
Tuesday: Romans 3:9-20
Wednesday: Romans 3:21-31
Thursday: Romans 4:1-12
Friday: Romans 4:13-25

Reflect

- Q:** Give an example of a TV show or movie where "someone has to pay."
- Q:** Give an example for each of these self-justifying efforts: blame, work, bargaining.
- Q:** What is the problem with "do more" and "try harder" versions of Christianity? What do you think of David Zahl's quote below?
- Q:** Define "alien" or "foreign" righteousness as described by Luther below. How is this really good news?

Key Quotes:

"Christianity now is in crisis, in large part because people have marketed it as a religion of good people getting better, when in fact it is a religion of bad people coping with their failure to be good."

- David Zahl

"The God of grace deals with sin effectually and at a fearful cost to himself. God in his grace remains the God of justice. The God of grace does not cease to be God the Judge. His freely-given acquittal has a solid basis in the redemption which he himself has provided."

- Martin Franzmann

"God does not want to redeem us through our own, but through external righteousness and wisdom, not through righteousness that comes from us and grows in us, but through one that comes to us from the outside. Therefore, we must be taught a righteousness that comes completely from the outside and is foreign."

- Martin Luther

SERMON NOTES:
