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## Numbers 23:19-24

This morning we return to our subject of Justification. We have already established that these words before us were spoken by a false prophet, Balaam, but it fell from his mouth by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He was hired to curse Israel, the people of God, but God caused him to blessed Israel in saying these wonderful words, "*He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel...*" I believe these words clearly convey the true definition of justification. We have also set forth that justification is both in the Old and New Testaments.

We must make this point again, that justification is a very crucial and essential doctrine in the Bible. It is one of the most important doctrines in the Bible, so much so, that without the doctrine of justification no one can be saved! We set forth 5 things before you:

- I.       **The Meaning of Justification.**
- II.       **The Must (necessity) of Justification.**
- III.      **The Method of Justification.**
- IV.      **The Moment (effects) of Justification.**
- V.       **The Motive of Justification.**

We have seen, first of all, **The Meaning of Justification**. We have defined the doctrine of regeneration first to better understand justification. Regeneration means to be born again, that has to do with the change of the believer's nature, yea the change of the believers state before God whereas justification has to do with the believers standing before God. We have demonstrated that justification consists of two elements:

1. It has to do with forgiveness. (acquittal)
2. It has to do with imputed righteousness. (acceptance)

Justification then is the judicial act of God whereby those who repent of their sins and put faith in Christ alone are declared righteous in the eyes of God and are totally free from guilt and condemnation. Those who have been justified have been acquitted and

accepted by God. In justification we are set forth as righteous, i.e. to be declared righteous in the legal sense so that we can be put in a right relationship with God. Therefore justification deals with the issue of relationship, that is, to have a right standing with God, because of what Christ accomplished upon the cross.

We have also seen secondly, **The Must** (necessity) **of Justification** or why must we be justified. We saw that Job asked the question, how can man be justified before God. In Job 25, verses 3-5, *“How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? 5 Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. 6 How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?”* We saw that Job put all of us in the same place or position before God of being, sinful, guilty and condemned, thus, the need of being justified before God.

We saw last week, thirdly, **The Method of Justification**. We looked at this in the negative sense first, that is, no one will be saved by the keeping of the law of God. Paul declares under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that by the deeds of the law no flesh shall be justified or by the works of the law no man will be justified, hence, man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. No one will ever be counted righteous in God’s sight because of they seek to obey the law. Romans 3:28 Paul says, *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”* In verse 20 he said, *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”* Then in Galatians when dealing with those who were seeking to be saved by the law, it says in 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.”* Seeking to establish a right relation with God by keeping the law or good works in totally insufficient because salvation is by grace through faith, Eph.2:8 & 9, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* Now, last week in my zeal in seeking to prove by Scripture that salvation is not by works, but by grace, I also said that there is no salvation by morality and that there is no salvation by character and that man needs salvation from character and morality, that is, from self-righteousness. It might have seemed that I was saying that morality and character were bad things. Let me clarify this, what I meant to say basically was that morality and character will not save you. People look at themselves, at their morality or character and trust their morality or character thinking, surely if anyone gets to heaven it will be me. But, morality and character leads to self-righteousness, which deceives many into thinking somehow they will make it to heaven. There is a sense that salvation is from morality, salvation is from character in sense that salvation is from self-righteousness. It does not mean that morality and

character are wrong, no these human attributes are not bad and should be exemplified in our lives, but don't trust in them, don't look to them because it can lead to self-righteousness. As Christians, we need to have integrity, character and morality and even manifest good works, all I am saying is don't trust in these attributes, trust solely in Christ. As we said last week there are good people in hell, because the idea is only bad people go to hell, no hell is full of bad and good people. Eph.2:8 & 9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" Salvation is by faith without the aid or help of any works, this is where most people get tripped, because they want to do something to be accepted by God, but God will only accept a person through Jesus Christ without the works of the law or any other type of works. The law cannot remove sin, but as we saw last week it can open our eyes to the knowledge of sin. The law was not given to remove sin, but to expose sin and to intensify it. The law gives knowledge of sin and intensifies sin, so that, it becomes exceedingly sinful, but it cannot remove or forgive sin. Romans 7:7, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:13, "...*But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*" Again, the law makes no provision for imperfect obedience and therefore justification cannot take place by keeping the law.

Then, we looked at the method of justification positively. Justification is by God's free and sovereign grace! In Romans 3:24 & 25 we have the capstone of our salvation. It says that we are justified "**FREELY!**" Our salvation is merited solely by GRACE! We are saved by grace through faith! Freely denotes that God bestows salvation without anything done on our part to deserve it, earn it or to merit it, that is, without cause, undeservedly, it's free, its mercy, its grace! This is the good news of the gospel, salvation is not in a denomination, a religious rite or ceremony and it is based solely in the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the true method of justification. Romans 5:9, "*Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*" Heb.9:22 is very clear in setting forth that, "...*without shedding of blood is no remission.*" Again, in justification there are two important aspects, acquittal and acceptance and both of these are done freely for us by our Lord Jesus Christ. It has to do with forgiveness. (Acquittal) (Expiation) (Covering of sin) and it has to do with imputed righteousness. (Acceptance) (Propitiation) (Wrath removed). Ps.32:1 & 2, "*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*" Turn to Romans 4:1-8, 16. Justification then is the judicial act of God whereby those who repent of their sins and put faith in Christ alone are declared righteous in the eyes of God and are totally free from guilt and condemnation. We have been acquitted and accepted by God.

Justification has to do with the penal action of God regarding our sins, like a court room judge who hits with his gavel and says, not guilty regarding the person being charge. The law of God proclaims to the sinner, GUILTY, but those whom God saves and justifies, He declares NOT GUILTY! Col.2:13-15, *“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”* This then is the meaning of those words in Numbers 23:21, *“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.”* Because of Jesus Christ, when God looks upon Joe Maldonado, God beholds no iniquity or sin in me nor does He see any perverseness in me. Thanks be unto God, praise His Holy name, what a joy, what a blessing to be without guilt and condemnation before God, to stand before God, JUSTIFIED! Therefore Justification again consists of being acquitted by the forgiveness of sin and the removal of its guilt and condemnation and being accepted by God based solely upon the merits of what Christ accomplished upon the cross, thus, freely imputing to us, the righteousness of Christ. We have dealt with the doctrine and application of justification let us now proceed with the practical aspects of justification, which brings us to our fourth point:

**IV. The Moment (Effects) of Justification.** In other words, what happens at the moment of justification or what are the effects of justification. This is a broad or nebulous question because of all the effects that transpire when a person is justified or when a person is saved. We will look at only a few for it would take many sermons to cover every aspect of justification.

(1). Well, one of the blessed of effects at the moment of justification is **Peace with God**. Turn to Romans 5:1, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* What a blessed application to our hearts to know that we have peace with. To know that God is not against us, God’s condemnation and wrath does not hang over us, but that we have been brought to the place of having peace with God. When God justifies us all our sins are covered by the blood of Christ, they are put away by the sacrifice of Christ and God declares us righteous, therefore we have peace with God. Before this moment of justification we were at enmity with God, we were enemies of God, we were fugitives running from God, condemned and declared guilty of violating and breaking God’s holy law, we were alienated and estranged from God in our sins. But when God saved our souls everything changed in our relationship with God we went from being fugitives to having fellowship with God, from enemies to being reconciled to God, from being at war with God to being at peace with God from

being condemn to being to being forgiven, from being guilty to being declared righteous before God. What a blessing to go from being an enemy of God to being reconciled and at peace with God. Again, all of this because of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross for sinners. If you are still there in Romans 5 look at verse 6 and following. Consider everything Paul is saying here:

- Verse 6: Christ died for the ungodly. Do you see yourself ungodly? You don't, then Christ didn't die for you, He died for the ungodly! Its humbling isn't it?
- Verse 8: Christ died for sinners. Do you see yourself a sinner? No, I'm not that bad pastor Joe, maybe I've done a few bad things, you know a few mistakes, but a SINNER!
- Verse 9: Saved from wrath: Do you see yourself under the wrath of God?
- Verse 10: We were enemies. Do you see yourself an enemy of God?
- Paul does not mince words he is very concise in his point: Before there is peace with God, we were ungodly, sinners, under His wrath, enemies, but now we have been justified, therefore we have peace with God. Again I ask, how glorious is it, to know that we have peace with God!

(2). A Second effect at the moment of justification is: **Pardon for our sins**. When we are justified all our sins are pardon, all our sins are forgiven. Look at Acts 13 and in particular verses 38 & 39, *“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”* In Christ we are forgiven from our sins and justified from all things. Col.2:13 & 14 says, *“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”* Christ took all our sins and nailed them to the cross, therefore forgiving us from all our sins. What a precious experience of being one moment condemn and guilty and then by the grace of God completely pardon from all our sins. According to Nehemiah God is ready to pardon, Neh.9:17, *“...but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.”* Isaiah says that God will abundantly pardon, Isaiah 55:7, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* Jeremiah says that God will pardon, Jer.50:20, *“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.”* How glorious to stand before God completely pardon, being

totally forgiven from all my sins, that is, having the guilt and condemnation entirely removed forever and ever. Yes, this is what happens at the moment of justification.

(3). There is not only peace with God and pardon from our sins, but there is also the **Possession of Christ's righteousness** or if you wish the imputation of Christ's righteousness. In justification we are declared righteous, but because justification is an effect of regeneration and in regeneration we are made righteous by God, wherein God imputes His righteousness, thus, we see all this come together. In other words God can't declare us righteous if we are not righteous. Our righteousness is not our own, it is imputed to us; therefore we possess Christ righteousness, not by impartation, but by imputation. Notice again Romans 4:20-25, 6. Romans 3:22. Because of this God sees the believer as being without sin or guilt in Christ. Numbers 23:21, "*He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel...*" Look at Romans 5:17-21.

(4). Not only is there peace with God and pardon of sins and possession of Christ's righteousness but also the **Perpetuity of Justification**. That is, we will always be justified before God; there will never come a time when we become unjustified. I mentioned this purposely because there are many groups that believe you can lose your salvation, but the Scriptures are clear regarding the perseverance of the saints or if you wish eternal security of the believer. If a believer was able to lose their salvation that means they would be unjustified before God and you will never find a verse that says we can be unjustified after being justified. Therefore what a blessing to rejoice in, that we will continually be justified before God until the day we die, God always looks at us like this, "*He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel...*" We are justified now and one day we will be glorified, Romans 8:28-33, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*"

(5). Not only we will have peace with God, receive pardon for sins, possess the righteousness of God and be perpetually justified, we will also **Praise God for Justification**. Just the thought that all my sins are forgiven and forgotten and that I am at peace with God because He accepted me on the basis of His Son Jesus Christ and thus freely justified causes me to praise my God with all my heart. I might have started a new trend here at HDGBC last week. You see I'm not one of those preachers who can sing, and many times when I preach I want to just break into singing because my

heart is overflowing or as David would say, my cup runneth over, well my cup is running over this morning and I want to sing the praises of my Great God, turn to Ps.9:1& 2 let us stand and sing this. How about Ps.96:1-4. Please be seated. How can you not praise God for all the wonderful things He has done for us. Sometimes we need to be in the valley of Berachah, that is, the valley of BLESSING! This is obtained by praising God. Does this mean we do not have problems and trials and tribulations in our lives, no we have them, but singing the songs of Zion can lead you to victory over trials! Have you ever praise yourself to victory? It can happen, turn quickly to 2 Chron.20:1-27.

Like I said there are many things that can be added to the effects or moment of justification, but we will only see 5, we have peace with God, we have pardon of sins, we have possession of Christ's righteousness and we have the praises of God and this will be eternal because in heaven when time shall be no more we shall spend an eternity praising our God. Read the book of Revelation and see how often the angels and seraphim's and the people of sing God's praises. Rev.4:8-11; 5:9-14; 7:9-12.

Quickly and lastly our fifth point:

## V. The Motive of Justification.

By motive I mean, the motivation or being motivated to be justified. After hearing the blessings and glories of justification, shouldn't that drive you or motivate you to be justified. If you are outside Christ this, you are at odds with God, you stand condemned. Coming to God in repentance and laying hold of Christ by faith put you in a right standing before God, it puts you in a right relationship with God. To think that you can stand before God acquitted and accepted is the best and good news you could ever hear and to think it free. It's free to you and me, but it cost God His only begotten Son, that the He could be the just and justifier of those who believe in Jesus. To stand before God knowing that He will not behold or see iniquity or sin in you or that He hath not seen perverseness or wickedness in you. This is the good news of the gospel that God sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross for sinners, Paul says this, "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**; of whom I am chief.*" 1 Tim.1:15. May God be pleased to open your heart and your eyes that you would flee to Him this morning! Let's Pray.

***"He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel..."***

(Read SOS 4:7)

Let's Sing Revelation 5

Let me share with you this poem I wrote on being justified by faith:

## Justified by Faith

Romans 5:1

The Bible declares that we are all born in sin  
We must consider this truth and look within  
And consider that wages of sin is death to all  
Because of Adam's rebellion and terrible fall

The good news of the gospel is salvation is free  
Because of Christ's accomplishment on Calvary's tree  
One day Jesus Christ set down His heavenly crown  
Came down to earth for poor sinners who were sinking down

Left the glories of heaven to save sinful man  
In eternity this was God's redemptive plan  
Those painful thorns would be laid upon His head  
He died willingly in the sinner's stead

What wonderful news to a sinner's ear  
This can vanquish and remove every fear  
For in Christ alone can our hope be built  
To deliver us from condemnation and guilt

My sins had condemned me without any hope  
On the way to hell was I on that slippery slope  
By His grace I was made to see my wicked heart  
Remorse and conviction did my sin impart

God drew me with effectual grace and power  
Fixed in my heart I'll never forget that hour  
Oh, what glorious and heavenly love is this  
That has made my heart burst with such joyful bliss

In repentance and tears I bowed before my Lord  
Freely forgiven as we are told in His Word  
Peace with God now fills my heart and soul  
To know that my God has made me whole

We are therefore, justified by faith alone  
Because it is by Christ's blood which does atone  
By His blood we have been justified  
Awaiting the day we shall be glorified

I thank God my eyes were opened to my sinfulness  
To my saved soul now is imputed Christ's righteousness  
May your eyes also be opened to behold your sinful state  
For, if you die in your sins without Jesus Christ, it'll be too late

**Pastor Jose F. Maldonado**