

Romans

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- I. Opening to the Letter (1:1-17)
- II. The Gospel Explained: Justification by Faith Alone (1:18—4:25)
 - A. Our Lack of Personal Righteousness (1:18—3:20)
 - B. God's Gift of Imputed Righteousness (3:21-31)
 - 1) The Explanation of Justification (21-26)
 - 2) The Implications of Justification (27-31)

Arguments for *justify* as a legal decision...

- 1) The Greek and Hebrew words translated "justify" are always used in the context of the courts and legal decisions (e.g., Dt. 25:1; Rom. 8:33-34).
- 2) In those passages, "justify" is always the opposite of "condemn."
- 3) In Rom. 4:5-6 Paul demonstrates beyond all doubt that this word describes the decision of a judge.

The Three Transactions of Justification

1. God credits our sin to Christ.
2. God credits Christ's righteousness to us.
3. God forgives our sin and declares us forever righteous in His sight.