

No Man Is Justified By the Law

By: Dan Jenkins

When you first read the words of Paul in Galatians 3:11 you may not immediately understand the impact of what He said. “But that no one is justified by the law is evident...” This truth forces you to deal with how men were saved during the times of the Old Testament if no one is justified by the law. How could anyone be saved from Adam to the coming of Jesus?

When God revealed His covenant at Mount Sinai, He told them to offer sacrifices. Why? As He described the various animal sacrifices He repeatedly said, “And it shall be forgiven” (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7; 19:22; Num. 14:19; 15:25, 26, 28; Deut. 21:8). More than a dozen times God told them their sins would be forgiven when they offered the sacrifices. How then can Paul describe some who did these very things and much more yet were not forgiven? Paul does say that no one is justified by the law!

What about Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and so many others, especially David? They lived under the Old Testament, and no one doubts their salvation, yet Paul said that no one is justified by the law. How can this be?

What about those in Hebrews 11. So many righteous people are listed there, and then the writer adds these words, “Time would not permit me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson, also of David and Samuel and the prophets” (Heb. 11:32). Yet, Paul said that no

one is justified by the law.

The writer then lists verbs, nouns and adjectives to describe the righteousness of these unnamed saints. “Through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness; obtained promises...quenched fires...valiant...tortured...trials of mockings and scourgings...chains...imprisonment...stoned...sawn...slain...wandered in deserts and mountains...dens...and caves...” He then shows the assurance of their salvation by saying, “All these having obtained a good testimony through faith.” They were accepted and saved while living under Old Testament law. Yet, Paul said that no one is justified by the law!

The key to understanding how this could be is to look at New Testament scribes and Pharisees. They sought salvation by their own acts of righteousness based on the law. They boasted of the fact that they fasted twice every week, gave alms (with sounding trumpets) prayed long prayers (on street corners) etc. What was missing? Paul says, “Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law” (Rom. 9:32). Faith without obedience is dead faith; but obedience without faith is just as dead! Knowing the Bible but seeking salvation without faith leads to disaster. Is it possible that some today are making this same mistake?

The Truth About Jesus (Part 3 of 7): The Great Vindication

By: Selected

The transforming truth of Jesus Christ is certain, supreme, clear and relevant to our lives (1 Tim. 3:16a). Paul outlines six pivotal elements of this truth, which are critical to understanding and appreciating the magnitude of Jesus Christ and His plan for us. We studied first the great incarnation.

Second, Paul emphasizes the great VINDICATION: “He was vindicated by the Spirit.”

What does that mean? Some of the older translations had “justified in the Spirit” (KJV, NKJV) or “justified in the spirit” (ASV). “Justified” is a good translation of the Greek word, as that is how it is most often translated, but it is not implying that Jesus had sins from which He needed to be “justified.” The term also means “to vindicate, to prove to be right, avouch to be good and true.” When and how did that happen in the life of Christ? While this could be talking about Christ’s human “spirit” (with a lower case “s,” as in the ASV), it seems to be more likely pointing to Christ being vindicated or proved to be right by the Holy Spirit. Let’s consider three specific times when the Holy Spirit is seen avouching for Christ.

Jesus was vindicated by the Spirit at His baptism. Jesus was baptized in order “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15) and, more especially, to prove His divine identity. John was told, “Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit” (John 1:33). When “the heavens were opened” and “the Spirit of God” descended “like a dove” upon Jesus, John said, “I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God” (John 1:34).

Jesus was vindicated by the Spirit in

His power over evil spirits. In the face of denial and rejection, especially by the Pharisees, who accused Jesus of working for the devil, “the ruler of the demons” (Matt. 12:24), Jesus was able to state and to prove (for there was no other plausible explanation) that He “cast out demons by the Spirit of God” (Matt. 12:28). Jesus had power over evil because He worked in concert with the Spirit of God Himself, not the devil!

Jesus was vindicated by the Spirit in His resurrection. “Lawless hands” took Jesus and “murdered” Him “by hanging on a tree” (Acts 2:23; 5:30; 10:39). But God was not done proving who Jesus is! Jesus Christ was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:4). The Spirit worked to prove the deity of Christ!

This indisputable truth ought to transform our lives toward godliness! As the Lord’s church, we are “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15). We must know it! We must teach it! We must defend it!



Upcoming Events

Tonight: Monthly youth devo after evening worship hosted by the Cammock's. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Tuesday, Sept. 16: Ladies' Bible Class Kick-off Luncheon at 11am at the home of Katy McCoy. Please sign up to bring a salad and/or dessert.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Ladies Bible Class will begin. All ladies are encouraged to join us in the fellowship hall Tuesdays at 10 am.

Sat. Sept. 27: Save the date for a Men's Lunch here at the building. Please see Doug Jobes for more detail.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rick Bass, who was in the hospital last week with pulmonary edema.

Allen Clifton who will be having a doctor's appointment on the 25th.

James Hicks who was in the hospital last week.

Benny Horton's nephew, Bob, who had a heart attack last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of September 14, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Desmon Flonnory
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer.....Mike Atkinson

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Doug Jobes
Cup.....James Cammock
Offering..... Ron White
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Steve Randle/
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song LeaderKirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Doug Jobes

Other

Prepare Communion.....Kaspar & Mericle

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Sabrina Gonzalez.....Sept. 17
Dan Fielder.....Sept. 20

If you have a birthday in September, you and your family are invited to celebrate at the McCoy home Sat. Sept. 20th from 2-4pm. Address is in the member directory.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for the remaining months of 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in
God, believe also in Me.
John 14:1

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 7, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....82
A.M. Worship.....111
P.M. Worship.....74
Wednesday Worship.....57

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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