

“Right With God – Foundations of Faith” - A Short Study Series

By HopeHouse.vi

## Part 1: Justified – Declared Clean

### Key Scripture:

*“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

— Romans 5:1 (ESV)

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### Introduction: The Gavel Fell, and Grace Spoke

Imagine standing in a courtroom. You know you’re guilty. You’ve broken the law. The evidence is undeniable. But just as the verdict is about to be read, the judge does something unthinkable: He declares you not guilty—because someone else has already taken your punishment.

That’s **justification**.

It’s not a future hope—it’s a present reality for those who trust in Jesus. It’s not based on how we feel or how well we behave, but on what Jesus has already done. And when we get this deep into our hearts, it changes everything.

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### What Is Justification?

The word “justified” means *to be declared righteous in God’s sight*. It’s a legal term. Picture God as the judge—not corrupt, not lenient, but perfectly just—and still, He chooses to forgive and release the guilty because Jesus already paid the penalty.

**Romans 3:23–24** – *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

Justification doesn’t mean we never sinned. It means God no longer counts that sin against us. He wipes the slate clean and puts His stamp of approval on us—not because we earned it, but because Jesus earned it for us.

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### How Do We Receive It?

We’re not justified by trying harder or doing better. We’re justified by **faith**.

**Galatians 2:16** – *“...we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...”*

That means the moment you put your trust in Jesus—really trust Him to save you—God says, “Not guilty.” You’re justified.

You may still stumble. You may not feel holy. But justification isn't about feelings—it's about fact. It's God's legal, eternal decision: **You're clean. You're covered. You're accepted.**

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## Why It Matters

So many believers walk around feeling like they're one mistake away from losing God's love. They live under a cloud of shame and pressure, constantly wondering if they're good enough.

But here's the truth: **Justification ends the performance trap.**

You're not trying to *earn* peace with God. You *have* peace with God—because Jesus made it possible.

You don't have to live in fear. You don't have to prove yourself.

You are justified.

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## What This Means for Me

- **I am forgiven.** Not partially—fully.
- **I am accepted.** Not because I'm perfect, but because Jesus is.
- **I have peace.** No more striving, no more pretending—just grace.

This is the foundation of your faith. Not what you do, but what Christ has done. And when you build your life on that, you find rest.

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## Prayer

Father,

Thank You that I don't have to work for Your love. Thank You that in Jesus, I've been justified—declared clean and free. Help me live in the peace You've already given me. When I doubt, remind me that Your grace is greater than my guilt. Let my heart rest in the truth that I am Yours—justified, forgiven, accepted.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Part 2: Righteous – Made Right

Key Scripture:

*“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

— 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

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### Introduction: Right Where You Belong

Many believers understand forgiveness—they know Jesus took their place and paid their debt. But too many stop there. They believe they’re *not guilty*, but still walk around feeling *unworthy*. They carry the label “*sinner saved by grace*”—true, but only half the story.

The full truth? You haven’t just been **forgiven**—you’ve been **made right**.

You’ve been given **righteousness**. And not your own kind, stitched together by good behavior. You’ve been given **Jesus’ righteousness**—perfect, holy, and complete. That’s how God sees you.

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### What Is Righteousness?

Righteousness is more than doing the right thing. It’s about being in *right standing* with God.

You and I could never get there on our own. Our best attempts fall short (Isaiah 64:6). But through Christ, we receive a righteousness we could never earn.

**Philippians 3:9** – “...*not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*”

When you accepted Jesus, God didn’t just forgive you—He **clothed you** in Jesus’ own righteousness. You now belong in His presence—not as a guest on probation, but as a child welcomed home.

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### A Gift, Not a Grade

This isn’t a report card. This isn’t performance-based. God isn’t grading on your actions to decide if you’re still in good standing. Righteousness is **a gift**:

**Romans 5:17** – “...*how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*”

It's already yours. You don't have to keep earning it. You simply grow into it.

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### **So How Do I Live in It?**

You live from righteousness—not toward it.

You stop seeing yourself as unworthy and start walking in your new identity. That doesn't mean you become proud—it means you become secure. You walk in love, not fear. In confidence, not condemnation.

And when you mess up? You run to the Father, not away from Him—because you're already His. He's not surprised by your weakness. He's drawing you closer in it.

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### **What This Means for Me**

- **I am not who I used to be.**
- **I am not what I feel.**
- **I am the righteousness of God in Christ.**

When the enemy whispers shame, you can answer with truth: *"I've been made right."*  
When you're tempted to perform or pretend, you can rest: *"I'm already accepted."*

This is your position—secure, covered, clean.

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### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Thank You that You not only took my sin, but You gave me Your righteousness. Help me walk in that truth—not as someone still trying to earn it, but as someone already made whole. Let me see myself as You see me. And let my life reflect the holiness You've placed inside me.

In Your name, Amen.

## Part 3: Walking Worthy – Living from Grace

### Key Scripture:

*“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy... so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”*  
— Titus 3:5–7 (NIV)

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### Introduction: Walking in What’s Already True

When you know you’ve been justified and made righteous, a new question starts to rise: *“So how do I live now?”*

Do we go back to trying hard to be good?  
Do we act like sin doesn’t matter anymore?  
Or do we simply coast, knowing we’re forgiven?

The answer isn’t found in trying harder or doing less—it’s found in walking *worthy* of the gift we’ve already received.

Not walking to *earn* grace—but walking *because* of grace.

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### Grace Doesn’t Make Us Lazy—it Makes Us Alive

Grace isn’t permission to live however we want. It’s the power to live the way God intended.

**Ephesians 4:1** – *“I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...”*

You’ve been called righteous. You’ve been declared justified. Now walk like it’s true. Not out of fear of falling—but out of joy for what God has done.

When you understand who you are, how you live starts to change.

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### What Does It Mean to Walk Worthy?

1. **It means living from identity, not for approval.**

You're not trying to get God to love you. You already have His love. So you live like someone who's treasured, not tolerated.

2. **It means choosing holiness, not just avoiding sin.**

You're not just trying to "be better"—you're following Jesus. Holiness isn't about being uptight; it's about being set apart. It's freedom, not restriction.

3. **It means showing grace, not just receiving it.**

When you've truly tasted grace, you can't help but extend it. You speak kindly. You forgive quickly. You love deeply. Why? Because that's what was done for you.

**Colossians 1:10** – *"...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work..."*

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## **You're Not Walking Alone**

Walking worthy isn't something you do in your own strength. The Holy Spirit is your guide and your helper. He nudges. He convicts. He encourages.

And when you fall? Grace picks you up—not to let you stay down, but to help you move forward.

**Philippians 2:13** – *"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."*

You're not alone on the path. God is walking with you.

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## **What This Means for Me**

- **My walk flows from who I am.**
- **I choose holiness because I belong to God.**
- **I live like I've been rescued—because I have.**

Righteousness and justification are the roots. Walking worthy is the fruit. It's the response of a life that knows it's been changed.

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## **Prayer**

Father,

Thank You that I don't walk alone. Help me live in a way that honors who You've made me to be. Let my life reflect the righteousness I've received—not to earn Your love, but because I already have it. When I stumble, lift me up. When I forget, remind me. And when I'm tempted, strengthen me. I want to walk worthy—not to prove anything, but to show that grace has truly changed me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



As we close this series, I pray that these simple but powerful truths—**justified, made righteous**, and **walking worthy**—take deep root in your heart. You are not alone on this journey. At *HopeHouse.vi*, we're walking together in faith, learning to live from the grace we've received. If this message has spoken to you, I invite you to keep following along as we grow in God's Word and walk out His truth in everyday life. There's more ahead—and you're warmly welcomed to be part of it.