

We Have Issues, God Has Answers: Assurance of Salvation
Sermon # 1, Select Passages

Main Point: *Knowing God’s gift of justification through Jesus, gives me assurance and freedom to live fully for Him.*

Getting to Know You

1. Do you think it is possible for a person to have full confidence they will go to heaven when they die? Why or why not?

Getting into the Book:

2. What does the Biblical term “justification” mean? (Leader: in short, it means “to be declared righteous.” This refers to our “position” in Christ.)
3. Open your Bibles to Romans 3 and answer the questions from the verses listed below.
 - a. Why are we in need of justification? Romans 3:10-12
 - b. How is justification given to us? Romans 3:24
 - c. How is it not obtained? Romans 3:20
 - d. How must I respond in order to be justified? Romans 3:22
4. “...When God justifies, He charges the sin of man to Christ and credits the righteousness of Christ to the believer” (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, p. 721). Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. On what basis does God declare us innocent of our sins? How ought we to respond to this magnificent gift?
5. What is your reaction to this quote by Dr. Ray Pritchard?
 “...as for ‘struggling’ over assurance, I think the problem comes from looking in the wrong place. As long as you look at yourself, you will never measure up. Your love for God will seem deficient, your obedience halfhearted, your devotion ragged, your growth in grace dismayingly slow, and your propensity to sin far too great. As long as you look at yourself, you will find many reasons to doubt your own salvation. There is another way to say it. God is satisfied with the work of his Son. Are you? That puts it in the right perspective. If God is pleased with what his Son has accomplished, we should ask if we are also pleased... Either Jesus pays it all or there is no payment made for our sin.” <http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/dr-ray-pritchard/i-struggle-with-assurance-of-salvation.html>
6. What does the Biblical term “sanctification” mean? (Leader: it means “to become holy or set apart.” This refers to our “practice” in Christ.) Refer to Philippians 2:12-13.

Getting Out There

7. What are some key differences between justification and sanctification? (Leader: see chart below)
8. Why is it important not to confuse your justification and sanctification?
9. How does knowing that your salvation is secure in Christ motivate you to live your life for Him?

Pray

Praise God for the gift of salvation and righteousness granted you in Christ Jesus. Pray for God to give you the confidence in Christ to live a life fully devoted to Him.

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
Legal standing	Internal condition
Declared righteous	Becoming more righteous
Immediate	Gradual
Entirely God’s work	We cooperate
Complete	A process
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

* This chart comes from a combination of information from *Why Small Groups?* p. 4, & *Systematic Theology*, p. 746.