

1. The meaning of justification

- a) Galatians 2:15–17
- b) Paul uses the term “justified” four times.
 - i) 39 times total in NT
 - ii) 27 times total used by Paul
- c) Key term for Paul, especially in his letter in the Galatians. What does it mean?
 - i) Declared innocent of charges
 - ii) Opposite of condemned

2. Not justified by works of law

- a) Galatians 2:16
- b) One of the Dead Sea Scrolls, from the Essene community at Qumran: “Important Works of Law”
- c) Is Paul opposing obedience here?
- d) Galatians 5:4

3. Justified by faith

- a) Philippians 3:2-9
- b) Galatians 2:20
- c) Why is faith so important?
- d) What do you think about this statement: “Faith does not save us but we are not saved without it.”

- e) How can you encourage a person who comes to you in a panic and says, “I know that faith is essential but I don’t have any faith!”
 - i) Ephesians 2:8–9
 - ii) Romans 12:3
 - iii) Hebrews 12:1–2
 - iv) Matthew 7:11

4. Does justification by faith encourage people to sin?

- a) Romans 6:1
- b) Romans 3:8
- c) Galatians 2:17–18; Romans 6:2
- d) Galatians 2:20

5. Discussion questions

- a) What does Paul mean when he says, “If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain?”
- b) What view did you have of salvation growing up? Did you think that you recommended yourself to God by your good works or did you comprehend that salvation is a gift of grace received by faith?

