

THE GOSPEL

Romans 3:23-28

INTRODUCTION:

Paul uses 5 words to describe The Gospel.

Known as words in Theology.

Do not describe 5 different acts of God.

Do not describe 5 experiences that we enter into.

It is one act of God.

It is one experience of man.

But it is set forth in 5 different ways. All of these 5 words are (picture) words, describe (scenes) that were familiar to the people in Paul's Day and to us today.

I. Justified - V. 24

May (not) be clear to the man on the street, but it is clear to (Judges and Lawyers).

Pictures: Here is a man on trial.

The Jury brings in a verdict - not guilty.

The Judge turns to the guilty party and says you have been acquitted. Cleared of all blame - in short you are justified.

In the Gospel when a man has been justified - it means God has declared this man not guilty of his past sin.

God has cleared this person of all blame concerning his past.

In (Romans) Paul uses this word justified in five ways.

1 - First - He tells us the (source of justification.)

Rom. 8:33 - he writes "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect, it is God who justifieth."

Only God and God alone can clear a man of all blame.

Now guilt is the cause of much trouble in man.

Wm. Law wrote - "The wrath of God is the guilt of man".

Which means the (worst penalty God) could devise was to allow man to feel the consequences of his sins in the form of guilt.

Now (physicatrists and doctors) of the mind tell us that one of the most difficult cases for them to treat is a person with a sense of profound guilt.  
Though they try to get the person to feel not guilty of something they have done in their own life -- yet only God can declare a man not guilty -- and it is only that when God declares a man not guilty that a man experiences guilt is gone.

2 - Second, He tells us of the (cost of justification.)

Rom. 5:9 - "Much now by being justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

It cost God to declare us not guilty.

It cost God to be able to clear us of all blame.

James Stewart - Scotish Scholar - wrote "When God forgives the sinner the sinner does not get off scot free. His sin must be paid for".

He is right about that!

And the sin was paid for, Christ paid for our sin by his blood and by his death.  
This is why God can be just and the justifier of him that is ungodly.

3 - Third, He tells about the (assurance of justification.)

How does any one know -- I know that God has cleared me of all blame.

My past guilt as yours keep arising over and over and over again. How do I know for certain? That my past guilt as far as God is concerned is over with.

Rom. 4:25 - Speaking of Jesus; "Who was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification".

The death of Christ paid for our sins.

The resurrection of Christ is God's own guarantee to us that he accepted that payment.

Living he love me

Dying he save me

Buried he carried my sins far away.

Rising He justified freely for ever

This is the assurance to us that he accepted the payment.

4 Fourth, (how this justification is obtained.)

Rom. 3:28. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Faith - is believing what God says without asking any questions.

Abraham in the Bible is called the father of the faithful. Why?

Rom 4:21 "And being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able to perform."

That's faith!

That is faith for me, God will do for me what he says he will do. I'm not worthy of it, I don't deserve it, I can't appreciate it fully, but he will do it. If I will just believe it and receive it from him.

5 - Fifth, (why does God want to clear us of all blame?)

What is his motive?

Source of our justification is God.

The book justifies us.

The resurrection justifies us.

The faith justifies us.

But why does God want to declare us not guilty? Clear us? Deliver us?

Rom. 3:24 - "Being justified freely by his grace."

That is why - because of his Grace.

Four times in Paul's writings he starts off "Grace and mercy from God the Father, and our Lord, Jesus Christ."

What is the (difference) between the grace of God and the mercy of God?

Grace of God gives to us what we do not deserve -- salvation.

Mercy of God with-holds from us what we do deserve - punishment.

God deals always with all of us with grace and mercy.

Notice this grace that is willing to justify us, willing to clear us of all blame, is given freely!

Some one may say it's too good to be true -- Bless God it is too good not to be true.

Jesus told us in one of his matchless stories about the grace of God that is willing to accept all people.

Luke 14:21-23 - Wealthy man prepares a large banquet in mansion. Servants go and invite my friends, best people to come - these fine citizens refused. Go quickly and find the poor, the blind, the lame and bring them to the banquet. Servants returned and said we gotten all of these and yet there is room. The Master said good, go out, leave the streets, highways and go out into the byways of the city and compel them to come in.

Compel may trouble you - would God force anyone to come to his table against his will?

They were to go outside of the city and who was out there - the rif-raft of society - the thieves, murders, prostitutes, drunks, hiders from the law.

When the servants got there I expect they said look at us that man in the mansion would not want me - ragged - outcast - look who I am - he would not want me.

Yes, he wants you no matter who you are no matter how long you have been that way -- welcome! The grace of God is willing to clear all men of all guilt no matter what they are or what they have done.

Often churches boast we have the cream of the crop of this city as members of our church. Bankers, lawyers, professional men -- glad of that. Where are the thieves, drunkards, problems of sex, the street walkers - outcasts -- doesn't God want them to!

( I Cor. 6:9-11 )

Today we brag on the best members in the New Testament. They bragged on the fact they were winning the worst members.

Church must go out into the high ways and hedges and the grace of God will cover them all - clear them all blame.