

**NOTES >>**

# **SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE**

NORTH: Sept. 20/24 | SOUTH: Sept. 27/Oct. 1 | CHAPEL: Oct. 8



## **JUSTIFIED**

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This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo-hope.org/resources)

# ***JUSTIFIED***

***READ:*** Romans 10:9; John 5:19-30

To be justified is to be made right with God. In Martin Luther's time, people were taught they must get right with God through adherence to religious practices and the sale of something called indulgences. Indulgences were notes signed by the Pope that could be purchased to take years off a loved one's time in purgatory. (Purgatory, an invention of the Catholic church, was a place to pay penance for any sin not accounted for on earth.)

Simply put, being made right with God, justification, was a work that a person did. As Luther read scripture it became clear to him that we are justified by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. This is a gift given freely to all who believe and confess Jesus is Lord.

Today, that old belief persists in a new form. Many believe that what makes them right with God is being a good person. It seems to make sense, good people should receive good things, bad people should be punished. But Jesus didn't teach that. Jesus taught that forgiven people are made right with God, not good people. You are not made right with God by what you do, but by the cross and the empty tomb! Jesus' love is what motivated you to do good and be good.

## ***QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION***

1. What does it mean to be good?
2. If good people go to heaven, how good is good enough?

3. Do you believe you have lived a good enough life, so far, to be "justified" with God? How do you know?

4. According to our texts from Romans and John, how are we saved?

5. What is the importance of Jesus' resurrection?

6. Are you right with God and how do you know?

7. What is your response to being made right with God?

## ***PRAYER***

Lord, thank you for your Son, Jesus, who has defeated the power of sin and death. Help us to confess he is Lord and believe in our hearts that he rose from the dead. Guide us forward by your grace. Remind us each day that we do not need to earn your approval, but rather it is a gift of love given to us freely through your Son. May we cling to the cross and find our hope completely in Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen.