

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

(Teacher Helps)

Lesson 4

Justification

(pages 6-8)

The students need to learn to think in terms of a Judge, justice, crime and punishment, etc. in order to understand God's judicial act of justification based on the substitutionary death of Christ.

One way to do this is to have the class act out a case of human justice--where a person commits a crime, is seen by witnesses, is brought to trial, if found guilty as charged and a sentence is passed (a penalty is given).

One of the students can be chosen to play the part of the criminal. The class can even decide what crime they want him to commit (bank robbery, etc.). The crime could be acted out. Make sure that some of the students are present when the crime is committed to serve as witnesses. After the "crime scene" you can have an officer of the law arrest the person. Next comes the trial. You need the witnesses (those who observed the crime), the criminal, the Judge (probably should be the teacher) and the jury (perhaps even some lawyers if desired).

Let the evidence be set forth showing that the man is guilty. Have the witnesses take the stand and report on what they saw and heard. Let the facts of the case be clearly presented to the jury.

Let the jury deliberate and come up with a verdict. When they return to the room the judge should ask them to give a

report on what the verdict was (innocent or guilty). Of course, in this case the evidence is clearly against the condemned man and he is found to be guilty as charged.

Next the judge must give the sentence (the penalty). Perhaps this will be years in jail or whatever the students decide upon (they'll probably throw the books at him!).

Then you could perhaps have the defense attorney (the lawyer who is on the side of the criminal) plead for a lesser penalty. Have him say things like this:

- 1) But Judge, can't you forget about this crime and pretend it never happened?
- 2) You are not a very loving Judge. How can you allow this man to suffer so many years in jail? Don't you have any compassion? Why are you so cruel?
- 3) But Judge, even though this man is guilty of a terrible crime, can't you ignore this fact and release him from prison?
- 4) etc.

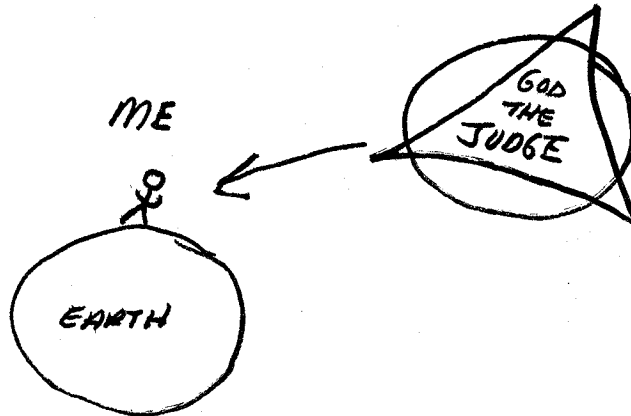
Have the class think about each of these things and answer them. These are simple principles of justice that need to be driven deep into the students' minds ("guilty ones need to be punished" "innocent ones need to be justified" "there is a penalty for crime" "there is a penalty for sin" etc. See Deut. 25:1-2)

Finally, have the criminal carried off into prison, etc.

Having involved the students in this illustration from the human realm, we are now ready to apply it to the spiritual realm.

Who is our Judge? What kind of a Judge is He (review

what we did last week showing why God is the Perfect Judge. Why doesn't God need witnesses? Why doesn't God need a jury? Now have the students imagine that God the Perfect Judge is considering each one of them:



How does God see me? What does God know about me? As God evaluates my life, am I a criminal or a righteous person? Have I done anything wrong? Have I broken any laws? Have I broken any of God's laws? What laws have I broken? (Sometimes some of the 10 Commandments are helpful in convicting young people of how they have failed to measure up to God's righteous and holy standards)

Use passages like Romans 3:10-12; 3:23 etc. Note the diagram on the top of page 7 showing unrighteous me as compared with the scale of God's righteousness (or as measured by the standard of God's righteousness). How do you measure up? Do you measure up or do you come short?

What then is the verdict that God must give concerning you? Are you innocent or guilty before God? (see Romans 3:19--GUILTY BEFORE GOD).

What does this mean? Think again of the human illustration. The guilty criminal had to pay a penalty (jail, etc.). What about the guilty sinner before God? Is there a penalty? Is there a sentence? Is there a punishment? What is it?

Use Romans 1:29-32, Romans 6:23; etc. What does this death penalty mean? What does it involve?

*Ez. 18:4
Gen 2:17 etc.*

The following SS notes might be of help in explaining to the class the meaning of the death penalty, and how it involves hell, the lake of fire, etc. (see attached sheets)

Must the penalty be paid? Must justice be carried out? Can God overlook sin? Can He ignore sin and pretend it never really happened? Will God in love forget about man's crimes and not demand that man pay the penalty for what he has done? Is this fair? Will God do what is right and fair? Can God let sin go unpunished? Would you want policemen who let criminals get away without being punished? Would that be fair?

Thus, man has an enormous problem. He deserves death. His sin demands death. The penalty must be paid. (Ask the students how this problem can be solved. See if they know the answer) How did God solve this problem? How can God save the sinner and still carry out justice?

Explain how the Judge Himself, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, left His throne in heaven and came to earth and paid the penalty Himself in our place. Have the students do the work and exercises on page 8 of the notes. Explain the chart at the bottom of page 8. Jesus took my sin. I take His righteousness! In ourselves we are utterly sinful; In Christ we are perfectly righteous.

Are you IN CHRIST? See 2 Cor. 5:17. How does a person get to be IN CHRIST? Christ died for everyone, but not everyone gets the benefits of His death. Why is this so? (Explain the place and the importance of faith--personally appropriating what Christ did for you).

CHAPTER 4

THE GLORIOUS TRUTH OF JUSTIFICATION

To understand what the Bible teaches on the subject of JUSTIFICATION, it is helpful to picture in our minds a courtroom scene with GOD Himself as the "J _____ of all the E _____" (Genesis 18:25). With this in mind, we shall now consider the five great facts which help us to understand the true meaning of JUSTIFICATION:

FACT NUMBER 1--All men are guilty and condemned before God.

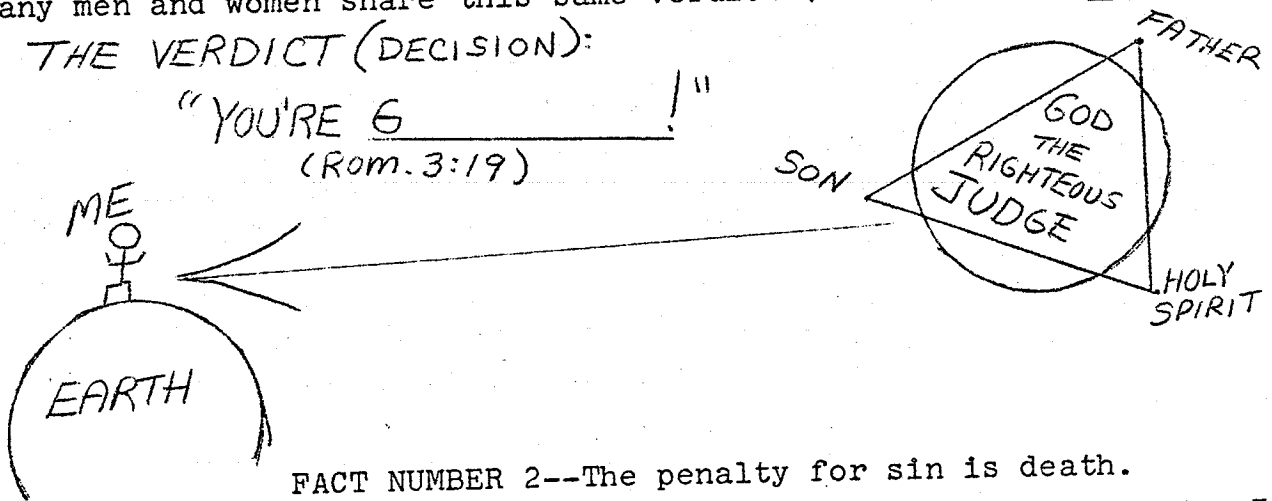
Consider carefully Romans 3:9-19 where we see ourselves just as God sees us (the God who is perfectly holy and absolutely righteous). According to verse 10, are you RIGHTEOUS or UNRIGHTEOUS?

_____ (Note: When you think of the word "justification" or "justify" you should think of the word "RIGHTEOUS." In the Bible, the word "just" means "righteous" and thus we could think of the word "justification" as meaning "rightification," to coin our own word. The word "justify" means "to declare or consider righteous." How can an unrighteous man become a righteous man? This is the key question because God will accept nothing less than absolute and perfect righteousness!)

Read Romans 3:19. As we stand before God the Righteous Judge, is the verdict "GUILTY" or "NOT GUILTY"? _____ How many men and women share this same verdict (Romans 3:23)? _____

THE VERDICT (DECISION):

"YOU'RE G _____!"
(Rom. 3:19)



FACT NUMBER 2--The penalty for sin is death.

Not only are we guilty, but there is a penalty involved. In Romans 1:29-31 we find a terrible list of sins. As you honestly consider this list, have you done any of these things? We learn in

Romans 1:32 that those who commit such things (the things mentioned in verses 29-31) are worthy of _____! In Ezekiel 18:4 we read that the person who sins shall _____. Therefore, because of our sin we deserve (circle one): a. a \$600 fine b. 5 weeks in prison c. 10 years in prison d. the death penalty.

Because of my sin I deserve the _____ penalty. In Genesis 2:17 we find that the penalty for Adam's sin was also the _____ penalty. What are the wages of sin (Romans 6:23)? _____

If you were paid \$8.00 per hour and you worked a 40 hour week, then you deserve to be paid how much money that week? _____

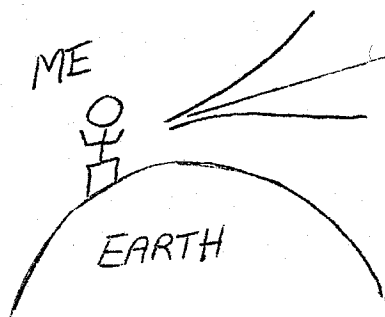
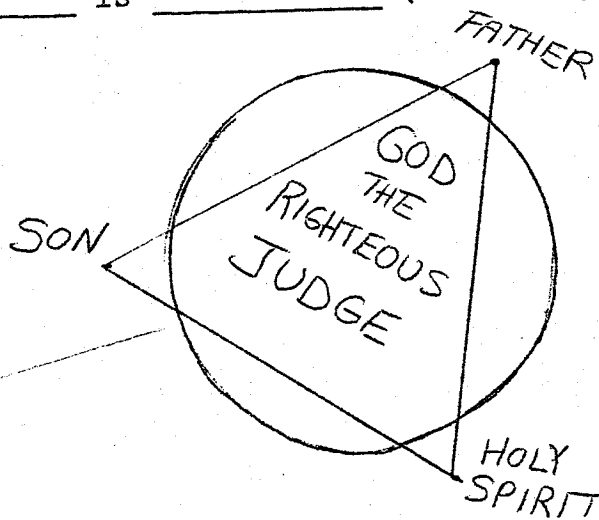
If your boss were fair and honest, then your wages for that week would be _____. God the righteous Judge knows exactly what we have earned for ourselves as we live in sin each day and God's Word tells us that the wages of _____ is _____ (Rom. 6:23).

THE VERDICT:

"YOU'RE _____!"
(Romans 3:19)

THE PENALTY (PUNISHMENT):

"YOU DESERVE _____!"
D
(Romans 1:32; 6:23)



What is this death penalty? We must remember that this death (Romans 6:23) is more than just physical death. This "so great death" involves SPIRITUAL DEATH and SPIRITUAL DEATH consists mainly of two things: 1) SEPARATION FROM GOD 2) PUNISHMENT BY GOD. The following verses speak of spiritual death (hell, which is also called "the second death"). For each verse write down the part of the verse that indicates separation from God and also the part that indicates that punishment is involved:

2 THESSALONIANS 1:9

SEPARATION _____
PUNISHMENT _____

MATTHEW 25:41

SEPARATION _____

PUNISHMENT _____

MATTHEW 25:46

SEPARATION _____

PUNISHMENT _____

REVELATION 20:15

SEPARATION _____

PUNISHMENT _____

FACT NUMBER 3--The penalty must be paid.

God the righteous Judge cannot say, "You deserve the death penalty, but because I'm a merciful God I'll forget about that and I'll let you live!" Now if God were to do that, it's true He would be merciful, but He would no longer be Just and He would no longer be holy and He would no longer be righteous! Can God stop being what HE IS? _____ (see Malachi 3:6)

Imagine a human judge saying to a criminal, "I know you robbed that bank and shot the teller at the window but because I'm so merciful I'll forget it ever happened and I'll let you go free!" Would such a judge be exercising justice? _____ Do criminals deserve to be punished? _____

Consider Deuteronomy 25:1-2. If a person is righteous (innocent) then the judge should justify him (declare him to be innocent). If the person is innocent then the judge should say, "You're NOT guilty!" If the person is guilty, then he should be condemned. If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, should the judge let him go unpunished (Deuteronomy 25:2)? _____

Many non-Christians say, "How can a loving God send a person to hell?" But they forget that God is the Judge of the Universe and He must exercise justice! It would be silly for someone to say, "How can a loving judge send a criminal to jail?" A human judge may be very loving and kind, but he is still responsible and obligated to carry out Justice and guilty ones deserve to be punished! That's THE LAW!

FACT NUMBER 4--Christ paid the penalty as our Substitute.

We deserve the D _____ penalty and this penalty must be paid. We are all condemned sinners deserving an eternal death in the LAKE OF FIRE which is called the _____ (see Revelation 20:14 and 21:8). BUT, God sent His beloved Son into the world, not to _____ the world, but that the world through Him might be _____ (John 3:17).

When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, did He experience SEPARATION FROM GOD (Matthew 27:46 and Psalm 22:1-3)? _____ Did He experience PUNISHMENT BY GOD (Isaiah 53)? _____ He suffered the very thing which we deserved to suffer! He paid the penalty that we should have paid.

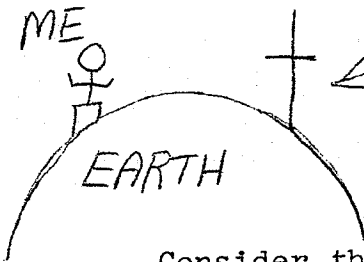
THE VERDICT: "YOU'RE

(Romans 3:19)

THE PENALTY:

"YOU DESERVE!"

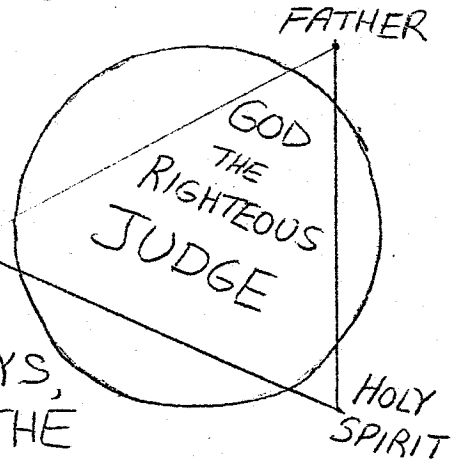
(Rom. 6:23)



(1 TIMOTHY 1:15)

JESUS SAYS, "I'LL PAY THE PENALTY FOR YOU! I'LL DIE SO THAT YOU CAN LIVE!"

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:3)



Consider these verses: 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:6,8 and

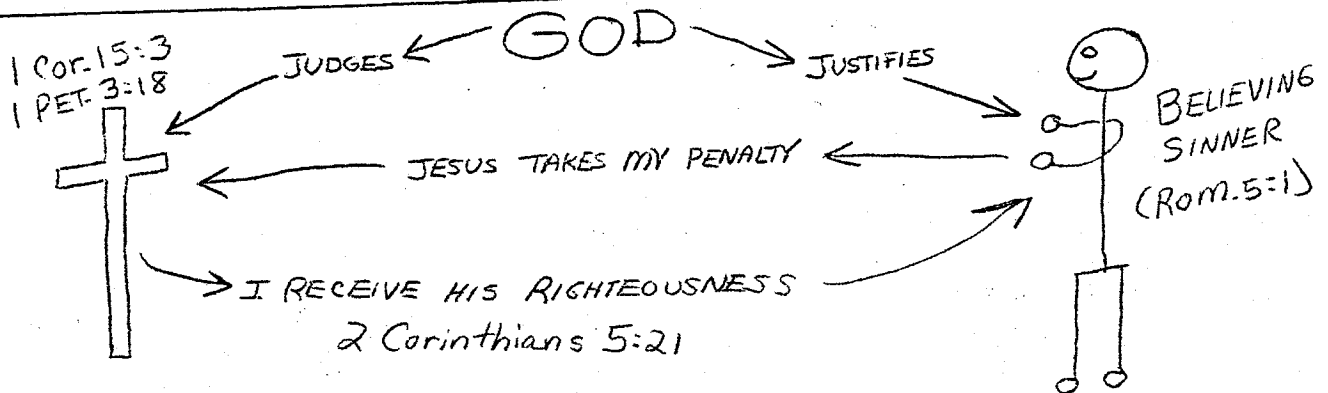
1 Peter 3:18. Who paid the penalty for our sins? _____

Who deserved to pay this penalty and who should have paid this penalty? _____

Name _____

FACT NUMBER 5--God declares the believing sinner to be righteous in Christ.

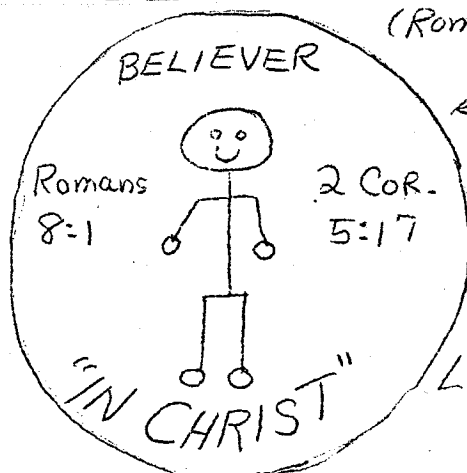
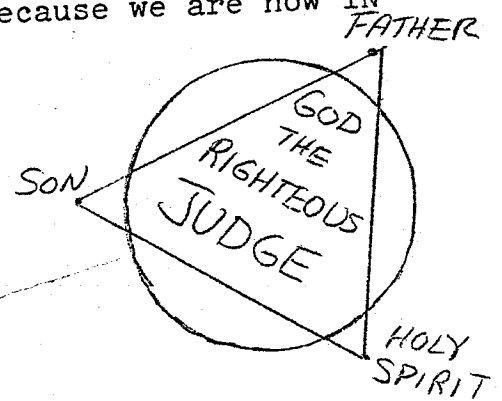
When a person really believes the first 4 facts, God does a wonderful thing. We read in Romans 4:3: "Abraham _____ God, and it was _____ unto him for _____." What does the word "it" refer to in verse 3 (see verse 5)?



Although we are not righteous in ourselves, when a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, God sees him as righteous **IN CHRIST!** We are righteous because we are **IN** God's righteous Son! "But of Him are ye _____ Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and _____" (1 Cor. 1:30). Because God sees us in his Son we are righteous: "For He (God the Father) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the _____ of God **IN HIM**" (2 Cor. 5:21). We are no longer guilty, condemned sinners because we are now **IN CHRIST: THE VERDICT:**

"NOT GUILTY"
(Rom. 3:24)

THE GIFT: "E _____ L _____"
(Rom. 6:23)



THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE NOW SAYS:
"YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS IN MY RIGHTEOUS SON AND YOU ARE NO LONGER UNDER CONDEMNATION!"
(John 5:24; Rom. 8:1)

Because God in His grace has justified me (declared me to be righteous in His righteous Son--"just as if I had never sinned"), what kind of life should I now live? Read Titus 2:11-14 and circle the correct answer:

- a. It doesn't really matter how I live because God sees me as perfectly righteous in Christ.
- b. Now that God has declared me righteous I want to live a righteous life--living right, acting right, thinking right and speaking right!
- c. Now that I am justified I should live the same way I lived before I was saved.

Match the following:

1. _____ This is what the natural man would say (compare 1 Cor. 2:14).
 2. _____ This is what the saved man would say.
- A. "I'll never forget what Christ has done for me on the cross and I want to live a righteous life day by day so that I might please the God who saved me."
 - B. "It really does not matter how a person (believer) lives or acts because God has forgiven all his sins and has declared Him to be righteous in Christ."

DO YOU WANT TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO TOOK YOUR DEATH PENALTY AND SET YOU FREE FROM ALL CONDEMNATION? IF HE WAS WILLING TO DIE FOR YOU, ARE YOU NOT WILLING TO LIVE FOR HIM? See Romans 6:13-18 and notice the word "righteousness"!

Please answer TRUE or FALSE:

- _____ All men are guilty before God, but because God is loving and merciful, there is no penalty for our guilt.
- _____ The wages of sin is a free trip to heaven.
- _____ The death penalty means only that we must die physically.
- _____ A Holy God must judge and punish sin.
- _____ All men will spend eternity in the lake of fire.
- _____ No one will spend eternity in the lake of fire.
- _____ The lake of fire is called the second death which involves separation from a Holy God and eternal punishment.
- _____ A fair and righteous judge is one who does not punish the criminal.
- _____ Jesus the Righteous One died for unrighteous me.
- _____ God showed His great love towards us by forgetting about our sin.
- _____ I believe with all my heart that the Lord Jesus Christ paid the death penalty for my sin and I'll always be thankful for what He did for me on the cross.