

December 5, 2024

The Lord wants you to live in His light; The gifts of Christ: we are *justified* by faith.

Rom. 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

The Greek word for *justified* is **dikaiothentes** which means *I have declared and made them righteous; they are acquitted and found innocent, pardoned and made in right standing.* When I meditate on this verdict, it brings me cause for shouts of praise and glory to the LORD! I have been justified. The jury foreman reads the verdict as: NOT GUILTY!

The meaning here is staggering in the eyes of the Father. He is now seeing me as innocent; **just as if I'd** never sinned. As if I was like Adam and Eve in the garden living in complete harmony and relationship with the LORD. Now, how could a jury come up with such a verdict because I know that I am guilty on all charges? Here is the reason: justified means that I am pardoned from the penalty and guilt of sin because it has been imputed to Christ's account. This is the work of Christ for you and me. Every sin we've ever committed was placed upon His account, and He then paid the debt for us! The accuser of the brethren can then stand as the prosecutor and state the sins of our lives, only to hear Jesus answer every single time; I paid for that with My own sinless blood. **It is finished! Tetelestai! Paid in full!** We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

We were guilty, but He took our punishment; our sentencing of Hell, for us. And He did. **Rom. 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* There is no greater gift that anyone could ever give us. Jesus said it this way in **John 15:13** *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Dear LORD, we have been found 'not guilty' because the penalty of our sins has already been paid. Our Savior has redeemed us from the punishment of sin and moved our names from guilty to innocent by His great love and His sinless blood. Oh, hallelujah to the Lamb that was slain. In Jesus Name, Amen