### **Sermon #3: Like a Diamond**

21 of Sept. 2025

**BREAKING THE ICE**

* *Share a time you doubted your salvation or spoke with someone about doubting their salvation. What would you say was the basis of this doubt?*

### **UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH**

We will be looking at four New Testament passages about justification; the biblical concept of being declared righteous (in a legal sense) based on the work of Jesus Christ. This should lead to a healthy confidence of our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. As you read the passages, keep in mind what that knowledge of salvation should produce in us as believers.

Romans 5:1-2

1. Explain the words, “we have been justified.” Think of the tense it is written in. What does that mean for us? How does that affect the way we see our standing with God right now?
2. What does “peace with God” look like? What do we have peace from? What should we not fear?
3. What does it mean to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”? (see 2 Cor. 4:16-18 & I Peter 5:10 for help).

Romans 8:33-34

1. Answer Paul’s question, “Who can bring an accusation against God’s elect?”
2. Compare “It is God who justifies” to the ways we often seek justification in the world.
3. What does it mean that Jesus is “interceding for us”?

I John 5:13

1. According to I John 5:13, what does John state is the purpose for him to write this letter?
2. What do Acts 4:12, Phil. 2:9-11, 1 John 3:23 tell you about “the name of the Son of God”?

Ephesians 2:8-9

1. What does this passage teach about the relationship between grace, faith, and salvation? How do these three work together, and what is God’s role in each?
2. How does this passage remove any room for boasting in ourselves?
3. What would change when we truly believe that salvation is a gift, not a reward?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

* Take a minute to think of a courtroom scene. You are sitting guilty of sin. According to the law, your punishment is death, separation from God, and an eternity in hell. There is no point in having a strong defense attorney. They cannot help you. You were caught. The witnesses can all attest to it. There is no hope. Then the judge walks in, it is Jesus. Use the verses & truths you’ve learned above to speak to what would happen next in the life of a believer.

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Would you say your present justification is based on faith in Jesus Christ’s life, death & resurrection for you, or are you still seeking justification on your own merit?
2. Where in your life do you need to rest in the peace Jesus has already secured for you? What would it look like to trust that peace in your current season or situation?
3. Do you live with confidence that you have eternal life through Jesus? If not, what causes doubt? If so, how does that assurance shape your everyday choices and perspective? How can you take intentional steps to replace fear and doubt with gratitude and confidence in God’s grace?
4. In what ways are you trying to earn approval from your family, friends and/or coworkers? Can those behaviors also cross over with trying to earn God’s approval? What would it look like to live fully in His grace in the areas you try to earn approval?

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15.

When we pray according to God’s will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today’s lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.