

THE AMISH VOICE

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Can Anyone Help Me?

"Help," the man cried as he dangled helplessly from the edge of the cliff.

"Can anyone up there help me?"

"Yes," answered a heavenly voice. "I'll help you, but first you must let go"

"Let go!" gasped the man. "But then I'd fall!"

"I'll catch you," replied the voice.

After a long pause, the man called out, "Can anyone else up there help me?"



This story illustrates mankind's refusal to accept God's offer of salvation. Rather than accepting God's simple plan of salvation, *people cry out for another way*. Paul had clearly taught the Galatians that *faith* in Christ and His finished work on the cross was the only way to heaven.

Simple *faith* in Christ and His finished work on the cross for salvation can be scary because it seems so easy. It seems too simple to let go of the rope of good works and have a *faith* relationship with God.

GALATIANS 2:16 KNOWING THAT A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED [MADE RIGHT] BY [DOING] THE WORKS OF THE LAW, BUT BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST, EVEN WE HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST, AND NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW: FOR BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED [MADE RIGHT].

A person is not justified and made acceptable to God by works nor by law. Why? Because man is short of God's glory (Rom 3:23); he is imperfect, incomplete, and less than what he should be. Yet everything that lives in God's presence must be 100% perfect and complete, for God is the very picture of perfection, completeness, and fullness. Therefore man, who is imperfect and incomplete, cannot stand or live in God's presence.

However, a question needs to be asked: Is there a work that man can do or a law that he can keep that will make him perfect? God says, "No!" For everything that an imperfect being does is imperfect and incomplete. An imperfect being cannot do anything perfectly good, and certainly not good enough to make him perfect. An imperfect man is short of God's perfection; therefore, no matter what man does, he is short of what he should be. He could always be better and do better.

For this reason, man is not saved by works nor by law. If our salvation is dependent upon some works that we can do, then we are hopelessly lost. For what work can we do that will make us a perfect and eternal creature? No man can make himself perfect and eternal and cause himself to live forever in a

perfect and righteous world—and we know it. What can any person do to make his loved one live forever—to be perfected and made eternal? There is no work that we can do or law that we can keep to save ourselves from unrighteousness and death. If we are to be justified before God, accepted as perfect and complete, it will not be by the works of the law.

ROMANS 3:19-20 "NOW WE KNOW THAT WHAT THINGS SO-EVER THE LAW SAITH, IT SAITH TO THEM WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW: THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED, AND ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. THEREFORE BY THE DEEDS OF THE LAW THERE SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT: FOR BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN"


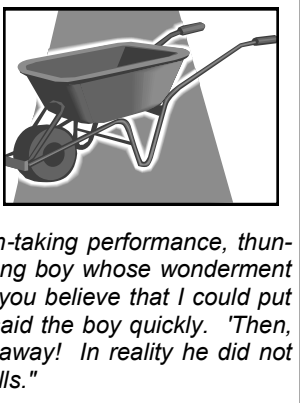
What then is our hope? How can we become justified, made perfect and complete before God? God says there is only one way.

Notice what Galatians 2:16 says in the middle of the verse...

GALATIANS 2:16 KNOWING THAT A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, BUT BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST, EVEN **WE HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST**, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST, AND NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW: FOR BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED.

Many a man has tried to make it over to the other side (from earth to heaven) without trusting Christ. Every one of them, without exception, has failed.

The Bible says that we are justified by faith in Christ alone. Remember, justification means that God counts our faith in Christ as righteousness, counts us acceptable to Him.

	<p><i>"Years ago a strong wire was stretched across Niagara Falls, just above the roaring falls. It was announced that a tight-rope walker would walk on that hanging wire from the American to the Canadian side. The thrilling moment for the death-defying event arrived. Great crowds watched with wide-eyed wonderment as the man performed, with calm deliberateness, the awesome stunt. The people cheered wildly! "Then the performer did an even more daring thing. He began to push a wheelbarrow with a grooved wheel across the hanging wire. At the end of this breath-taking performance, thunderous hand-clapping went up. Then the performer noticed a young boy whose wonderment was clearly seen on his bright face. Asked the man, 'My boy, do you believe that I could put you in this wheelbarrow and push you over the falls?' 'Oh, yes,' said the boy quickly. 'Then, get in the wheelbarrow,' said the man. Instantly the boy dashed away! In reality he did not believe that the tightrope walker could take him safely across the falls."</i></p>	
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Have you come to the place in your life where you trust Christ enough to get into the wheelbarrow?

A CLOSER LOOK: Justification: It means the same as "just-as-if-I-never-sinned"

It means to count or look upon someone as righteous—it does not mean to *make* a man righteous.

There are three major points to note about justification.

1. Why justification is necessary.

A. Justification is necessary because of the sin and separation between God and man. Man has rebelled against God and taken his life into his own hands. Man lives as he desires...

1st John 2:16

- fulfilling the lust of the eyes and of the flesh.
- clinging to the pride of life and to the things of the world.

Man has become sinful and ungodly, an enemy of God, pushing God out of his life and wanting little if anything to do with God. Man has separated himself from God and has turned his back on God.

B. Justification is necessary because of the anger and wrath of God. "God is angry with the wicked every day" PSALM 7:11 *GOD JUDGETH THE RIGHTEOUS, AND GOD IS ANGRY WITH THE WICKED EVERY DAY.* Sin has aroused God's anger and wrath.

God is angry over man's...

Rebellion | Opposition | Ungodliness | Unrighteousness | Sin | Departure

Therefore, the greatest need in man's life is to discover the answer to the following question:
How can the relationship between man and God be restored?

2. Why God justifies a man.

A. God justifies a man because of His Son Jesus Christ. When a man believes in Jesus Christ, God takes that man's faith and counts it as righteousness. The man is not righteous, but God considers and credits the man's faith as righteousness. Why is God willing to do this?

(1) God is willing to justify man because He loves man that much. God loves man so much that He sent His Son into the world to sacrifice Him in order to justify man.

JOHN 3:16 FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

(2) God is willing to justify man because of what His Son Jesus Christ has done for man.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 FOR HE HATH MADE HIM [JESUS] TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

- Jesus Christ came into the world to secure (or to become) the *Ideal* righteousness for man. He came to earth to live a sinless and perfect life. As Man He never broke the law of God; He never went contrary to the will of God, not even once. Therefore, He stood before God and before the world as the Ideal Man, the Perfect Man, the Representative Man, the Perfect Righteousness that could stand for the righteousness of every man.
- Jesus Christ came into the world to *die* for man. As the *Ideal Man* He could take all the sins of the world upon Himself and die for every man. His death *could stand* for every man. He exchanged places with man by becoming the sinner.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19 ...THAT GOD WAS IN CHRIST, RECONCILING [BOUGHT BACK] THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF, NOT IMPUTING [COUNTING] THEIR TRESPASSES [SINS] UNTO [AGAINST] THEM; AND HATH COMMITTED UNTO US THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.

He bore the wrath of God against sin, bearing the condemnation for every man. Again, He was able to do this because He was the Ideal Man, and as the *Ideal Man* His death could stand for the death of every man.

- Jesus Christ came into the world to *arise from the dead* and thereby to conquer and overcome death for man. As the *Ideal Man* His resurrection and exaltation into the presence of God *could stand* for every man's desperate need to conquer death and to be acceptable to God.

Very simply, God loves His Son Jesus Christ so much that He honors any man who honors His Son by *believing on Him*. He honors the man by taking the man's faith and counting it as righteousness and by giving him the glorious privilege of living with Christ forever in the presence of God.

3. How God justifies a man.

- The word justify is a legal word taken from the courts. It pictures man on trial before God. Man is seen as having committed the most shocking of crimes; he has rebelled against God and broken his relationship with God. How can he restore that relationship? Within human courts if a man is NOT GUILTY, he is declared innocent, but this is not true within the God's Divine Court. When a man appears before God, he is far from being NOT GUILTY; he is utterly guilty and condemned accordingly.



But when a man sincerely trusts Christ, then God takes that man's faith and counts it as righteousness. By such God counts the man—judges him, treats him—as if he were not guilty. The man is not made innocent; he is guilty. He knows it and God knows it, but God treats him as innocent. "God justifies the ungodly"—an incredible mercy, a wondrous grace.

How do we know this? How can we know for sure that God is like this? Because Jesus said so. He said that God loves us. We are sinners, yes; but Christ said that we are very, very dear to God.

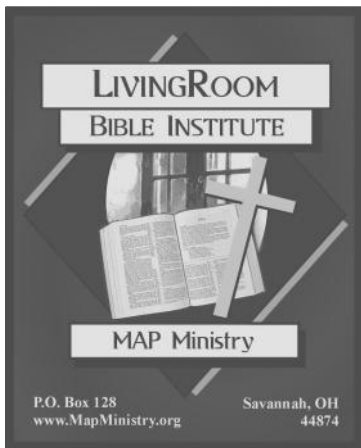
**GENESIS 15:6 AND HE [ABRAHAM] BELIEVED IN THE LORD;
AND HE COUNTED IT TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS!"**

**ROMANS 5:1 "THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH,
WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST".**



Are you justified? Have you put your faith and trust for salvation in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross? If not, would you consider making the following prayer personal today?

Today, I call upon the name of the Lord for my salvation. I believe in my heart that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead in order that I might have everlasting life. I now declare Him to be the Lord of my life. I give up any works on my part to save myself. I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. I declare myself to be a child of God forever, not because of my own works but because I believe in the finished work of Christ as full payment for all my sins. Amen



How often have you desired to know and understand the Word of God in a much deeper way? How often have you attempted to dive into the Word of God in order that you might get a better understanding of it, only to get side tracked—maybe it was because you did not really have a guide to go by, and before you knew it, nothing was happening?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions then we like to ask you to consider the ***LivingRoom Bible Institute***. It is a 2-3 year, home Bible study course that takes you all the way from the book of Genesis through Revelations. It contains very simple outlines and questions of each chapter in all the books of the Bible. The info and knowledge that you will get from doing the ***LivingRoom Bible Institute*** will change your life for all eternity.

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Note: At your request we can send you the complete “OT101: Genesis Study Guide” as a free sample, along with more information on the ***LivingRoom Bible Institute***.

Who is the antichrist? and... Is he alive today?

1 John 4:3 tells us...*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

There are a lot of rumors out on who the real and final antichrist might be. Some of the more popular targets are Vladimir Putin, Jacques Chirac, Prince Charles of England, and Pope Benedict XVI. In the United States, former President Bill Clinton and current President George Bush are the most frequent speculations. **So, who is the antichrist, and how will we recognize him?**

The Bible really does not come right out and say or go into great details about where the antichrist will come from. Many Bible scholars guess that he will come from a grouping of ten nations and/or a reborn Roman empire (Daniel 7:24-25; Revelation 17:7). Others see him as being a Jew since he would have to be in order to claim to be the Christ. It is all just speculation (guessing game) since the Bible does not specifically say where the antichrist will come from or what race he will be. One day, the antichrist will be revealed. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 tells us how we will recognize the antichrist...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 says...*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.***

I suspect that most people who are alive when the antichrist is revealed will be very surprised at who he really is. The antichrist may or may not be alive today. Martin Luther was convinced that the pope in his time was the antichrist. Others who have lived in the past few hundred years have been just as sure as to who the antichrist might be. So far, they have all been incorrect. I believe we should put the guess work behind us, and focus on what the Bible actually says about the antichrist.

Revelation 13:5-8 declares...*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

In Conclusion: Let's not forget how it was when Jesus came 2,000 years ago. Only a hand full of people were actually prepared to accept Him as the Son of God who came from heaven. The crowd that should have been the most prepared was the Pharisees—the most religious group of the day. But they were so busy setting up their own rules and laws that when Jesus came, it did not fit their ways and rules, so they spit on Him, plucked His beard out and finally had Him murdered.

Recommended Resource: Understanding End Times Prophecy by Paul Benware

This article was taken from [www.gotquestions.org]

How Should Christians Discipline Their Children?



Years ago, the spanking of children was a commonly accepted practice. In recent years, though, spanking has been replaced with “time-outs” and other punishments that do not involve physical discipline. Spanking of children has actually been deemed illegal in some countries. Many parents fear spanking a child, being reported to the government and having their children taken away.

Do not misunderstand – we are by no means encouraging child abuse. A child should never be disciplined physically to an extent that it causes physical damage to the child. According to the Bible, though, the appropriate and restrained physical discipline of children is a good thing, and contribute to the well-being and correct upbringing of the child.

Many Scriptures do in fact promote physical discipline. There are several verses in Proverbs that support physical correction.

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [right away].

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

The Bible strongly stresses the importance of discipline; it is something we must all have to be productive people and is much easier learned when we are younger. Children who aren't disciplined grow up rebellious, have no respect for authority, and as a result won't be readily willing to obey and follow God. He uses discipline to correct us and lead us down the right path, and to encourage repentance for our actions (Psalm 94:12; Proverbs 1:7, 6:23, 12:1, 13:1, 15:5; Isaiah 38:16; Hebrews 12:9). These are just a few verses about the good of discipline.

Here is where the problem lies; a lot of times parents are either too slow or too forceful when it comes to raising their children. The ones who

don't believe in spanking sometimes lack the ability to correct and discipline properly, causing their children to grow up unruly and rebellious. This hurts the children the most in the long run.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof [scolding] give wisdom: but a child left to *himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

Then there are also some parents who get the wrong idea about the Bible's meaning of discipline (or they may just be abusive people) and use it to justify the abuse and mistreatment of their children. Discipline is used to correct and train people to go in the right way.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

God's discipline is loving, as should it be between parent and child.

Spanking should never be used to cause lasting physical harm or pain, but a quick swat (on the bottom where there is the most padding) to teach the child that what he did was wrong and is not acceptable. Never should it be used to vent our anger and frustrations, or be uncontrolled.

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- *"Are you troubled much by your children telling lies?" asked one mother of another. "Not so much," replied her friend, "as by their telling the truth at the wrong times.*
- *"Children are not things to be molded but are people to be unfolded.*
- *A man is never so tall as when he stoops to help a child.*—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations

Recommended Resource:

The New Dare to Discipline by James Dobson

This article was taken from [www.gotquestions.org]

The Most Sacred [Holy] Spot On Earth

Where And What Is It?



It is the believer's heart. To see this, is to have one's life changed; wholly sacred; forced to cry out with the Apostle Paul in **Galatians 2:20**...*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

How can we keep from overflowing in grateful praise?

☞ **1 Corinthians 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

☞ **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

☞ **2 Corinthians 6:16 & 18** ...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

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