

"PETER, WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR JUSTIFICATION?"

GALATIANS 2:15-16

I. THE BACKGROUND TO JUSTIFICATION

- A. There Has Never In The History Of The World Since The Fall, Been A Human Being Who Has Been Just Before God
- B. Yet It Is Possible For Any Man To Be *Legally* Righteous In The Presence Of God
 - 1. There Is A Huge Difference Between Being *Legally* Righteous As Opposed To Being *Personally* Righteous
 - 2. Legal Justification Is The Declaration Of A Verdict

II. PAUL INSISTS THAT BOTH HE AND PETER BOTH AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD GOD'S VERDICT IN JUSTIFICATION (2:15-16)

- A. "Peter, You Know That Despite Our Obvious Privileged Position As Natural Born Jews Who Had Every Advantage, We Were Still Lacking" (2:15)
- B. "Peter, You Know That Obeying The Law Was Never The Means Of Coming Into A Condition Whereby We Are Declared Righteous" (2:16)

“THE 1996 CHRISTIAN BOOKSELLERS CONVENTION” SURVEY

One Hundred Evangelical Pastors, Publishers & Authors Were Randomly Selected To Answer The Following Survey With One Of The Following Three Answers: Agree; Disagree; or Undecided.

STATEMENT #1

God Cares About The Direction Of The Heart, Not The Content Of One's Theology.

Agree: 75%
Disagree: 25%

STATEMENT #2

Even A Person's Good Works Are Sinful & Repugnant To God.

Agree: 48%
Disagree: 44%
Undecided: 8%

STATEMENT #3

Salvation Is For Those Who Do Absolutely Nothing To Help Save Themselves Except Trust In God To Justify Wicked People

Agree: 42%
Disagree: 44%
Undecided: 14%

STATEMENT #4

Justification Is The Process By Which I Am Made Holy By God's Spirit

Agree: 71%
Disagree: 29%

All 100 survey takers were then asked to explain "Justification" in their own words. Only 7 got it right!!!!