

vocabulary of salvation

Vindicate

Our series of Vocabulary of Salvation has taken us to some wonderful words that we often do not use every day. In this lesson we consider the word "vindicate".

This is a word found in the more recent translations.

- The KJV uses the word "justified."
- The word is a legal term that carries a little more than just being

pronounced "not guilty" or justified.

- To vindicate is to provide the evidence that one is not guilty. It is to clear one from charges and accusations. Although vindicate and justify come from the same Greek word, the direction of the passages have led the translators to which word is more appropriate. Justification is the verdict. Vindication is the reason for the verdict. How did you reach that conclusion? The proof was the vindication.

Our American Justice system is modeled closely to that of the ancient Romans. A person is charged with a crime. The prosecutor presents evidence why the person is guilty. The defense presents evidence why the person is innocent. Vindication takes places when the proof of innocence leads to the plea of not guilty or justified.



1. In our spiritual situation, we were guilty. The blood of Jesus is what "justified" us (Rom 5:8).

For what reason did God "justify" (declare not guilty) us?

- (a) Rom 8:33-34 "Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."

- bringing a charge is not the same as proving the charge

1 Timothy 3:16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

- (b) Mt 11:19 "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

"The converts they made— whose lives had been radically changed—justified their activities. While the Pharisees and other critics would not accept God's wisdom, the spiritually wise were open to teaching about the kingdom" (Cain, Matthew, pg 381).

The Proof of Christ: John 5

1. Words of _____ (33-35)
2. M _____ (36)
3. Statement of the _____ (37-38)
4. S _____ (39)

- Acts 1:3 "To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many **convincing proofs**, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God."

- Acts 17:31 "because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a

Man whom He has appointed, having **furnished proof** to all men by raising Him from the dead."

2. Our Proof

1 Pet 1:7 "so that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Jn 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so **prove** to be My disciples."

Jn 13:35 "**By this** all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Rom 5:1,4 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...and perseverance, **proven character**; and proven character, hope"



Peter's Denial (Mt 26:69-74)

The charge: You too were with Jesus the Galilean

Peter's defense:

Second charge: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth

Peter's defense:

Third charge; Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away

Peter's defense:

- Acts 17:11 The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were **so**
 - 1 Thes 5:21 Examine everything carefully...(KJV: Prove all things)
 - Christianity is not a system built upon feelings but rather evidence or proof

How would you convince someone that you are a Christian?

- Salvation is not just rescue from sin—it is God declaring in that this one is Mine.
 - Lk 10:20 rejoice that your names are _____ in Heaven
 - Rev 22:4 They will see His face, and His name will be on their _____
 - Isa 49:16 Behold, I have inscribed you on the _____ of My hands...

Without Vindication:

Evil seems _____
Faithfulness seems _____
Suffering makes no _____

With Vindication:

This eliminates having to have the last word, or, win every argument
Vindication is not based upon what we have done. It is tied to faith in Christ

How would you answer, "What if Christianity isn't right?"