

WORD STUDIES

LESSON TWO

Let's say I am doing a study of Romans and I get to Romans 3:30 (Read this verse). This is the first time I encounter the word "justify" in the text and I recognize it is important because Paul ties it to salvation. How can we find out what this word means in the text?

Step One:

go to Blue Letter Bible, enter Romans 3:30 and choose NASB (I choose NASB in this example because I am doing a word study and the NASB is the best "word for word" translation). It is wise to also read the verse in several translations.

I choose $\delta\kappa\alpha\iota\omega$ and note that justify is Strongs number 1344. Click on 1344. The outline of Bible usage says it is to render/declare one righteous. Click on the Vines Dictionary entry and note:

1. Ideally fulfillment of the Law would render someone righteous, but no one is justified on this basis
2. God graciously renders us righteous through the atonement of Christ
3. Justify means to formally acquit from guilt

Now read Thayer's entry regarding this word:

1. Gives a little bit more of this being a legal word and means to declare innocent someone accused
2. At the bottom, gives the classical Greek usage of deeming right and fair

Step Two:

You can see all the uses of this particular word by doing a concordance search. The study of all the scriptural uses of a specific word is a primary means used to arrive at the definitions in a Lexicon. You can skip this step and go right to a reliable lexicon study.

continue down our page to Concordance and we see the word occurs 40 times in 35 verses

Step Three:

Now let's return to our verse and apply the information we have learned:

Romans 3:30 "Since indeed God will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised by faith is one"

1. God is the one who will declare those unable to achieve righteousness through obedience to the Law as righteous.
 2. He will do this through the atonement of Christ
 3. He will do this for those who have faith
 4. He will do this for Jew and Gentile
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5. There is only one God, both for the Jew and Gentile. There is only one way of salvation for both groups.

Step Four:

Return to the Blue Letter Bible Romans 3:30, and let's see what else we can learn just by looking into the meaning of "justify"

click on "K", this give us all the related passages of scripture to the concepts of Romans 3:30

1. Justification is by faith and not keeping the Law--Rom 3:28
2. Abraham's circumcision was a physical sign of his faith (not a work). He was declared righteous by his faith, not by his works.--Rom 4:11-12
3. Being justified with God is the same way for Jew and Gentile.---Rom 10:12-13

Step Five:

Return to the Blue Letter Bible Romans 3:30, and click on "D" This gives us even more dictionary topics related to "justify".

Let's go to Torrey's Guide and choose "Justification Before God". Look at the heading "Under the Gospel":

1. Is not of works
2. Is not of faith and works united
3. Is by faith alone
4. Is of grace
5. In the name of Christ
6. By the imputation of Christ's righteousness
7. By the blood of Christ
8. By the resurrection of Christ
9. Brings blessings
10. Frees from Condemnation
11. Entitles to an inheritance
12. Ensures glorification

Now if that information does not make you praise God for His grace toward you in your justification, you are not understanding the value of Bible study!

Let's go back to our difficult word from last week, silence in I Timothy 2:11

Last week, we defined the word as meaning quietly learn, not meddle in the affairs of others, and that it related to teaching and proper roles.

Pull up I Timothy 2:11 and let's look at the entries under "K":

1. Here we find that this verse about women and silence is related to the fall into sin in Genesis chapter 3.
2. We see that it is related to the husband being the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of man, and God is the head of Christ.
3. We find that this teaching is not found just once in the New Testament, but is repeated in I Corinthians 14:34-35.
4. This teaching is also related to the roles God has given men and women in the home and the church. Ephesians, Colossians, and I Peter

Go back to I Timothy 2:11 and let's look at the entries under "D"

If you really want to do an in-depth study of the Biblical passages related to women and their roles, look at "Women-religious privileges among early Christians"

Look at Easton's entry "Woman"

1. There is something to the created order which relates to this issue of silence
2. The man being head does not mean dishonor to the woman
3. Silence is said to mean the forbidding of public teaching

From these searches, we have learned that the word silence or quietness in I Timothy 2:11 is related to the order of God's design. Even Jesus Christ was in submission to God the Father and this is related to how the man is in submission to Jesus and woman is in submission to man. In particular, the term silence relates in some way to the particular activity of teaching, which Paul did not permit.

That is where we will leave it today because the goal is to inspire your own desire to look into these types of things in the Bible.