



# Soul Searching

"How can a Person be Right with God?" - Job 9

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• All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

• God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.  
• Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

## A. Review and Introduction

1. Bildad (in Job 8) says, "People suffer only because they sin."
2. Bildad also says, "God is just and would never allow the righteous to suffer."
4. One might say, "The only way to be right with God is never sin."
5. Pastor Joe says, "Bildad is all wrong. Christ didn't die for His sins—He died for the sins of all mankind."
6. "How can a man be justified before God" – Job 9:2, HCSB
7. **Justification** – Justification is the gracious act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner 'righteous in Christ' because of the death and resurrection of Christ. It is something God does, not something man does. God justifies a person once and for all. Again, it is an act and declaration of God alone. Man cannot earn justification from God; man can only receive it by faith in God. Justification is God's gift by God's grace. Justification is the only way sinful man can be made right with Holy God. - JKT
6. **Memory Hook:** I am justified by God—I am treated by God just-as-if-I'd never sinned before God.

## B. How Can a Person be Made Right with God? Job asks...

### 1. How can man be justified before God?

**Job 9:1–2, HCSB** -<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered: <sup>2</sup> Yes, I know what you've said is true, but how can a person be justified before God?

### 2. What can a man do when he realizes who God is?

**Job 9:3, NLT** -<sup>3</sup> If someone wanted to take God to court, would it be possible to answer Him even once in a thousand times?

- v. 4 - God is wise and mighty.
- v. 5 - God removes mountains.
- v. 6 - God shakes the earth.
- v. 7 - God controls the heavenly bodies.
- v. 8 - God has put the heavens in place as well as the oceans.
- v. 9 - God has named the stars.
- v. 10 - God is beyond comprehension.
- v. 11 - God is beyond my vision (understanding).
- v. 12 - God is all powerful and answers to no one.

### 3. How can man defend himself before God?

**Job 9:13–15, NLT** -<sup>13</sup> And God does not restrain his anger. Even the monsters of the sea are crushed beneath his feet. <sup>14</sup> "So who am I, that I should try to answer God or even reason with him? <sup>15</sup> Even if I were right, I would have no defense. I could only plead for mercy.

**Job 9:21–22, NLT** -<sup>21</sup> "I am innocent, but it makes no difference to me— I despise my life. <sup>22</sup> Innocent or wicked, it is all the same to God. That's why I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'

### 4. Who can mediate between *sinful me* and *Holy God*?

**Job 9:33–35, NLT** -<sup>33</sup> If only there were a mediator between us, someone who could bring us together. <sup>34</sup> The mediator could make God stop beating me, and I would no longer live in terror of his punishment. <sup>35</sup> Then I could speak to him without fear, but I cannot do that in my own strength.

#### The 3 Illustrations by Job

- A. A runner. - 25
- B. Swift ships. - 26
- C. An eagle after its prey. - 26

#### The 3 "ifs" from Job

- A. What 'if' I pretend that everything is OK. - 27
- B. What 'if' I labor in vain. - 29
- C. What 'if' I wash my face in cold water. - 30

Who do you think this Mediator might be?

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NIV); Hebrews 9:15; Romans 8:38-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:6-8; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 2:5-7 (LB).