

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- December 29, 2016
"I Am Justified"

Imagine yourself in a court of law. The judge has heard the testimony of the highway patrol officer. He has determined that you are guilty of speeding and firmly pronounces a mandatory fine of \$100.00. Then a most unexpected thing happens, causing a stir in the courtroom. The judge rises, steps down from the bench, and takes off his robe. Opening his wallet, he counts out the correct currency and pays your fine! The judge happens to be your father. As a judge, he makes sure that justice must be served. But as a father he demonstrates the love in his heart, pays your penalty and buys your freedom.

This scene portrays what your Heavenly Father did for us. As a just God, He had to sentence us to death because "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). But as a loving Father, He provided the payment for our sins – thus granting us the gift of eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus was the payment. His death on the Cross bought us life and forgiveness of sins. His death paid the price in full FOR THE PENALTY OF SIN.

As we come to the end of this year, accept God's pardon for all your sins, faults, mistakes, misdeeds and missteps. God, through Christ, has not only pardoned you but has acquitted you from all obligations and all accusations. Every sin you have committed this past year, the Judge (Father God) has spoken and no one can annul this divine decision. "Acquitted! Vindicated! Justified!" You can end this year with "a clean slate". God has rendered His verdict. Simply accept it!

Have a blessed week.
Pastor Sewdin