

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Justify**

"People will justify whatever for a good cause." – Julie Taymor

"Atheistic evolutionists believe that nothing created everything – a scientific impossibility. It couldn't happen. So they redefine the word 'nothing' to mean 'something,' so that in their unthinking minds, they can justify their foolishness." – Ray Comfort

"Whenever we approve, we can find a hundred good reasons to justify our approbation. Whenever we dislike, we can find a thousand to justify our dislike." – Samuel Richardson

"History is a tool used by politicians to justify their intentions." – Ted Koppel

"It will never do to plead sin as an excuse for sin, or to attempt to justify sinful acts by pleading that we have an evil heart. This instead of being a valid apology, is the very ground of our condemnation." – Archibald Alexander

It appears far too easy to get caught in the idea of justifying your actions. Somehow it seems to sooth the conscience and assure us that we are doing the right thing, when in fact we may be defying God.

Israel's first king fell victim to justifying his sins. The command of God was clear, "Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them..." (1 Sam. 15:3). When confronted by the prophet Samuel, listen to Saul's response: "...Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD" (1 Sam. 15:13). "But Samuel said, 'What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?'" (1 Sam. 15:14).

Saul now seeks to justify his actions, "And Saul said, 'They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed'" (1 Sam. 15:15). Two obvious matters of concern are seen in this passage, the attempt to blame someone else and the belief that worship will negate or erase the sin.

Samuel's response was harsh and to the point: "...Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fats of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..." (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

Saul thought that justifying his actions would atone for his disobedience. Instead it cost him his kingdom.

Far too many today believe that can justify their actions when they stand before God in the Judgment. If they think Samuel was harsh, then they are in for a rude awakening.