Northwest Bible Church – Oct. 30, 2016 – Reformation Sunday – Alan Conner

**Does God Justify the Wicked?**

*Rom. 4:5*

Intro

**A. ABOMINATION TO THE LORD (Prov. 17:15).**

*Prov. 17:15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous,*

*Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.*

**What does “to justify” and “to condemn” mean?**

1. It is a legal pronouncement of innocence/righteous or guilt.
2. Does not change the character of the person.
3. BOTH declarations are an abomination to the LORD.

**B.**  **HOW CAN GOD BE JUST AND YET JUSTIFY THE UNGODLY? (Rom. 4:5)**

*Rom. 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.*

How can God violate His own moral law and justify the wicked?

1. THE RCC VIEW:  *God justifies only the righteous.*

a) Problem #1 – our righteousness can never save us. Isa. 64:6; Tit. 3:5.

b) Problem #2 – we are not saved by works. Rom. 3:28; Eph. 2:8-9

2. THE REFORMED VIEW:  *God can justify the wicked who believe.*

a) Rom. 3:24-26.

b) Justification is a free gift (v. 24).

c) “Through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” - REDEMPTION REMOVES OUR SIN. *Mic. 7:19; Ps. 103:12; Isa. 38:17; 43:25.*

d) “propitiation in His blood through faith” – PROPITIATION REMOVES GOD’S WRATH. *1 Jn. 2:2*

e) Faith receives the gift of Christ’s imputed righteousness. *Phil. 3:9; Gen. 15:6*

f) Double Imputation/transfer.

Conclusion