The American Bar Associated rated the top rated law shows ever (2008):
1) L.A. Law (1986-1994)
2) Perry Mason (1957-1966)—Raymond Burr
3) The Defenders (1961-1965)—E.G. Marshall (young William Shatner)
4) Law & Order (1990-longest running TV drama series & Gunsmoke)
5) The Practice (1997-2004)

The American Bar Associated rated the top rated law novels:
1) To Kill A Mockingbird—Harper Lee (Pulitzer Prize Winner)-(1960)
2) Crime & Punishment—Fyodor Dostoevsky (1866)
3) Bleak House—Charles Dickens (1852)
4) The Trial—Franz Kafka (1925)
5) Les Misérables—Victor Hugo (1862)

Cross**Word** Images:
- The Temple (propitiation)
- The Market Place (redemption)
- The Court Room (justification)

Romans 4:25 "Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification**." (NIV)

THE BACK STORY ON JUSTIFICATION

1. God is a God of LAW—it is part of His character.

Isaiah 33:22 "For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; it is He who will save us." (NIV)

Four laws of nature
- Gravity
- Electromagnetism
- The weak nuclear force
- The strong nuclear force

Scientific Laws
- Hooke's Law of Elasticity

- Archemedes Principle of Buoyance
- Dalton's Law od Part Pressure
- Beanoulli's Law of Fluid Dynamics
- Fourier's Law of Heat Conduction

Jeremiah 8:7 "Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the law." (NIV)

2. God gave the Law to GUIDE people how to live in right relationship Him and with each other.

Psalm 119:129-130 "[129] Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them. [130] The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." (NIV)

3. God will JUDGE based on obedience to the Law.

Micah 6:1-2 "[1] Listen to what the Lord says: "Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. [2] Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against His people; He is lodging a charge against Israel." (NIV)

Deuteronomy 27:26 "Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out …" (NIV)

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:16-21)

- [?] 1. Do not worship any other god's beside me.
- [?] 2. Do not make idols of any kind.
- [?] 3. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- [?] 4. Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- [?] 5. Honor your father and mother.
- [?] 6. Do not murder.
- [?] 7. Do not commit adultery.
- [?] 8. Do not steal.
- [?] 9. Do not testify falsely (lie) against your neighbor.
- [?] 10. Do not covet.

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." (NIV)

4. NO ONE is able to fulfill the Law and stand GUILTY before God.

Psalm 14:2-3 "2 The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. 3 All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." (NIV)

Romans 3:19-20 "19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather through the law we become conscious of our sin." (NIV)

Romans 7:21-24 "21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law, 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" (NIV)

Romans 7:25 "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (NIV)

HOW GOD MAKES US RIGHT WITH HIM
Romans 3:21-26

1. God wants to restore my broken RELATIONSHIP with Him.

Romans 3:21 "But now apart from the law the righteousness **of God** has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify." (NIV)

2. This restored relationship is an UNDESERVED GIFT from God.

Romans 3:22-24 "22 … There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified **freely by His grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (NIV)

Justify means to "declare righteous"

- It is a legal or judicial term—one's relationship to the law
- It is when a judge reaches his final verdict and declares the defendant, not guilty. All charges are dropped. Record is cleared. No penalty is received.
- The person is now "right" with the law.

3. God sent Jesus to TAKE ON the punishment for my sin and thereby carrying out justice.

Romans 3:25-26 "25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith. 25 He did this to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—26 He did it to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus." (NIV)

4. I can get right with God placing my FAITH in Christ.

Romans 3:26 "He did it to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have **faith** in Jesus." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

Romans 8:1-4 "1 … there is now no condemnation **for those who are in Christ Jesus**, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us**, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (NIV)

COMMUNION

Colossians 2:13-14 "13 You were dead because of your sins and because of your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross." (NLT)