

THE PROMINENT ASPECTS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS

Part 1c: RIGHTEOUSNESS – WE'RE MADE RIGHTEOUS NOW AND FOREVER

May 2018
TGOCM

REVIEW:

1. God is Judge over all. He is a Just Judge.
2. Every act of everyone is evaluated in God's justice system.
3. Man had no way of living perfectly right in God's sight due to the corruptions of sin.
4. God rescued us from this horrendous problem of sin and its punishments by Jesus Christ via substitution: he measured out every consequence of sin and put it on his Son.

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS: *"In a broad sense: righteousness is the state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God."* (Thayer) It is being right in the sight of God, the just Judge. *"...it is a state called forth by God's act of justification, viz. by judicial deliverance from all that stands in the way of being right."* E.W. Bullinger, A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament. Vines definition: *"the character or quality of being right or just; it was formerly spelled 'rightwiseness,' which clearly expresses the meaning."*

God is righteous. Those who meet His conditions for righteousness are righteous.

TWO KINDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: 1. The righteousness of God. 2. Our righteousness.

The righteousness of God is made unto us when we believe on Jesus Christ. In this case God imparts His righteousness unto us. Our righteousness (man's righteousness) is achieved by keeping God's standard for perfection, the Law of Moses. In the Bible the context and phraseology will determine which kind of righteousness is being addressed. Examples of both kinds are addressed in Rom. 10:1-4 and in Phil. 3:9.

Rom. 4:6-8 gives us a clear definition of righteousness by faith quoted from Psalm 32:

"In this way David also tells of the blessedness of the man to whose credit God places righteousness, apart from his actions. 'Blessed,' he says, 'are those whose iniquities have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered over.' 'Blessed is the man of whose sin the Lord will not take account." WEY

One who purely accepts righteousness by faith is being purged from trying to become right, and to appear right to others. He is becoming free from what others think of him because he is concerned *only* about God's opinion of him.

Here are some other points which will develop from the acceptance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for everyone's errors:

- Matures us into forgiveness of self and others because to hold a fault against one is to reckon Christ's sacrifice as insufficient.
- Leaves no room for judgment against others (Rom. 8:1).
- Magnifies our unity in the Body of Christ because every one of all our sins was paid for by Christ.
- Wells up compassion towards others because all actions contrary to the love of God find their origin in Adam's sin and their solution in Christ's sacrifice.
- Purges self-righteousness with its false sense of self-worth, while magnifying Christ and his value to us (Luke 18:9-14).
- One finds safety, security and comfort in being righteous before his God.
- Develops inner peace and joy through knowing that God never holds anything against us and loves us just the way we are – flawless through Christ.
- Develops confidence and trust toward God who would love us to the degree of ransoming his son in our behalf.
- Causes a growing humility because by it we are reminded of our lack of worth to God previous to Christ's payment for our sins, and of our value to him as a result.
- Brings an awareness of our authority over evil forces arrayed against God's purposes (Phil. 1:28) because they were defeated by the cross (Col. 2:15, Heb. 2:14).

- Constrains us to live for him who died for us instead of for ourselves (2Cor. 5:14-16)
- Continues to increase our partnership with God our Father because by the cross he eliminated everything about us which hindered that partnership.

We're Made the Righteousness Of God In Christ: given the position of being right in God's sight.

"Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him."
(2Co 5:21 ASV)

"For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one shall the many be made righteous." (Ro 5:19 ASV)

God has made us righteous with His righteousness, not our own. Why did He do it? God wanted children, children with whom he could have a relationship, children for whom he had prepared all good things (1Cor. 2:9). Sin separated Man from God. God planned that Man would be made righteous and be reconciled to him by believing upon his Son. This way, God, being righteous, could have partnership with Man who is made righteous: 2 Cor. 6:14.

Made righteous NOW and FOREVER:

1. ***"On the morrow he (John) seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!"*** (Joh 1:29 ASV)
2. ***"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"*** Rom. 3:24
3. ***"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*** Rom. 5:1
4. ***"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*** Rom. 5:9
5. ***"How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"*** Rom. 6:2
6. ***"For he that has died is justified from sin."*** Rom. 6:7 RSV (This was a once in the past accomplishment, never needing to be repeated.)
7. ***"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,"*** Rom. 6:22
8. ***"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth."*** Rom. 8:33
9. ***"but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 henceforth expecting till his enemies be made the footstool of his feet. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."*** (Heb 10:12-14 ASV)
10. ***"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."*** I Cor. 6:11
11. ***"I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."*** 1 Jn. 2:12
12. ***"For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."*** Heb. 10:14 RSV
13. Eph. 1:4 We are holy and without blame. It doesn't say you won't sin. It says you aren't blamed. You are unblemished, flawless in God's sight.
14. Eph. 1:7 and Col. 1:14 Literally, we ***"are having redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins."*** It's a present tense reality!
15. I Pet. 2:24 ***"being dead to sins"***. We are right now, dead to sins so that we would live unto righteousness.

The challenge to this truth that we are eternally righteous by the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ is NOT the Scriptures written to the Church of the Body of Christ, but tradition: specifically, the tradition that one must ask God to forgive his sins or they are not forgiven. There is one misunderstood verse which has caused this traditional conflict: 1 John 1:9. This verse DOES NOT say to ask God for forgiveness, but instead to ***"confess sins."*** To ***"confess"*** is a compound word in the Greek, ***homologeō***, combining ***homo***, meaning ***"same"*** or ***"in agreement,"*** and ***logeō***, meaning ***"to say"*** or ***"to speak."*** ***Homologeō*** means ***"to say or speak the same, or in agreement,"*** but with what regarding our sins? The answer is right in the context of 1 John 1:9. See verse 1:7 and 2:2. The ***"blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin"*** and ***"he is the propitiation for our sins."***

An expanded explanation if this challenging tradition is in an addendum to this series called, ***1 John 1:9, Righteousness by Christ Challenged.***

Rom. 6:1-2 Grace would abound if we continued living contrary to God (See 5:20b). But it is a detestable thought to do so after all God has done to reconcile us to Himself.

God wants us to wake up to the reality of being righteousness: 1 Cor. 15:34.

The purpose of God making us righteous is addressed in Rom. 8:10 and Gal. 3:21. God made us righteous so that we could have life with Him.

The gospel is the power of God to those who believe it (Rom. 1:16). Why? Look at the next verse! ***“Because therein is the righteousness of God is revealed...”*** Do you see the importance of the righteousness of God? The righteousness of God is powerful to clean up our life like light is powerful to dispel darkness. This is God’s solution to the problem of sinning against God. We walk in our deliverance from sin by the cross. As we think and live the reality of having died to sin through the Lord Jesus Christ we are being purged from sinning (1 Jn. 1:7). This takes practice to be conditioned to the righteousness of God. Its application produces God’s powerful evidences in our lives.

Definitions of words associated with “righteousness:”

- "Propitiation: The act of appeasing wrath and conciliating the favor of an offended person" N.Webster 1828
- Expiation, "...it is He (Christ) by whom, as by a sacrifice, sin is expiated." E.W. Bullinger
- "Expiation; The act of atoning (at-one-ing) for a crime; the act of making satisfaction for an offense, by which the guilt is done away, and the obligation of the offended person to punish the crime is cancelled; atonement; satisfaction..." N. Webster 1828
- "Acquittal" A judicial setting free, or deliverance from the charge of an offense; as, by verdict of a jury, or sentence of a court. N.Webster 1828

RIGHTEOUSNESS THERAPY: Discuss 1. Points in the teaching which stood out to you, 2. Definitions of words associated with righteousness.