

Foundation Class 'Righteousness

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WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

As the Body of Christ, we often misunderstand righteousness because we do not rightly divide the Word of God on the subject. When you truly have a revelation of righteousness, you will begin to live a righteous life.

1. Righteousness means that we have right standing with God, or favour with God.

- **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- Paul preached that when Jesus was crucified, we were crucified with Him (**Galatians 2:20**).
- This *new creature* is righteous (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- God determines what is right and who is righteous. **Daniel 9:7** - “Oh Lord righteousness belongs to You...”
- **Psalms 11:7** - “For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”
- **Romans 3:22** - “Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ...” Note: the righteousness of God.
- This kind of righteousness brings you into the favour of God.

2. There are 2 kinds of righteousness.

The first kind of righteousness comes from doing the commandments of the Lord.

- **Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 24-25**
- Obedience to the Law of God is the first kind of righteousness and it made them look like the people of God.
- It was an outward working that man thought would make an inward change.
- It could never really change mankind because it was incomplete and weak because of man’s flesh.

The second kind of Righteousness comes apart from the law by faith in Jesus.

- **Romans 3:21-22**

- This second kind of righteous begins with faith and works from the inside out.

The first kind of righteousness was just a picture of the second kind of righteousness that was to come through Jesus.

- Jeremiah prophesies about a new covenant that was coming because the people constantly broke the original one (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**).
- This is a new one that will come from the inside, the heart of man because would write His Law on their hearts.
- There will come a new kind of intimacy in this new covenant and each person will have their own intimate relationship as they personally become the temple of the Lord.
- Ezekiel also prophesied about this new covenant and God said He would put a new spirit within them and remove their stony heart and give them a heart of flesh that they may walk in His ways (**Ezekiel 11:17-20**).
- This new heart of flesh was needed if they were going to be able to be God's people.
- In the first kind of righteousness they *looked* like the people of God, in the second kind of righteousness they *are* the people of God.

3. The first kind of righteousness came from being without sin.

- The Law's leading weakness is the fact that, in the flesh, man could never live up to it (**Romans 3:20**).
- The Law could only show man his need for redemption.
- **Deuteronomy 27:26** – “‘Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’”
- If you disobeyed the law in one area, it was disobeyed, and you were guilty of transgressing the entire law.

- If you did not obey the whole law, you were under a curse.

The second kind of righteousness came from being without the sin-nature.

- When you have a sin nature, sin is natural to you.
- When the sin nature is removed, righteousness becomes natural.
- The second righteous, by faith, bypasses the flesh by going directly to the spirit (**Romans 8:1-4**).

The key to your righteousness is the body of Jesus and the sacrifice He made when he bore your sin in His body and died in your place. We are righteous because he carried our sin to the cross.

- Righteousness is key to the foundation of your relationship with God.
- Sin can break your fellowship with the Lord, but it cannot break your relationship with Him.
- Confess your sins and keep sin from getting in the way of your fellowship with God (**1 John 1:9**).

HOW YOU BECOME RIGHTEOUS

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:3-4

1. Jesus' body was the key to our righteousness.

- **Psalms 40:5-10** – This is a prophetic statement of a day when regular sacrifices and burnt offerings will no longer be needed.
- We should be declaring the good news of righteousness in the assembly. The good news is that God has made us righteous!
- You can declare it with your *words* and with your *actions*.
- God had to put Jesus on the earth. The plan was that Jesus have a body and that He would take our sin in His body and sanctify us as He offered His body a sacrifice for sin once and for all (**Hebrews 10:5-10**).
- Jesus never committed sin but because he became sin in His body, He was able to pay the price for our sin and redeem us so that in Him we have become the righteousness of God (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

2. The only way to enter this righteousness is through faith.

- Righteousness cannot come from the law (**Romans 3:20, 28**).
- Justification cannot come from the deeds of the law.
- Jesus' death was physical *and* spiritual. We must believe that in Jesus body, He took our sin and paid the price for that sin.
- Because my sin was taken in His body, His righteousness can be established in me.

3. It is by faith in Jesus' body that we have this righteousness.

- Abram became righteous by faith (**Genesis 15:1-6**).
- Righteousness belongs to those who believe (**Gal 3:6-7, 13-14**).

4. Righteousness is our condition, just like being born-again.

- Righteousness is as real as salvation.
- Anyone who believes as Abraham believed it will be counted to them as righteousness just as it for Abraham (**Romans 4:16-22**).
- Grace: God's willingness to use His power on my behalf.

God laid out a plan for salvation and He made a way.

- It was accounted to him as righteousness. Our account says that we are righteous, and we can withdraw righteousness from that account.
- God puts it in us, and we can take it out.
- He gave His righteousness to us, so we have righteousness.

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN, IS THERE A CONNECTION?

Many Christians do not realize everything that happened when they were saved.

1. Most Christians do not believe they are righteous because of what we call a “sin-consciousness”.

- You overcome sin because you are righteous, not to become righteous.
- If God wants us to be righteous, He had to more than just erase the power of our past mistakes.
- Jesus paid for our sin in His own body; past, present, and future (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).
- **Ephesians 5:8**
- You do not want sin to get in the way of your fellowship with God.
- Change your habits.

2. This sin-consciousness is like an infection or a disease that runs through our entire being if we allow it.

- God allowed Jesus to be our sin so that even our sin-consciousness could be dealt with.
- When Jesus took our sin in His body, all the power sin held over us died with Him on the cross (**Romans 8:3**).
- God wanted to restore our ability to stand in His presence and He did it by making us righteous.

3. Sin-consciousness really hurts believers because they believe that God only blesses those who are completely without sin.

- We need to remember that remaining in our sin *does* bring hurt, but the blessing of the Lord follows the righteous. We are righteous because of faith in the body of Jesus.
- God restores to man His righteousness (**Job 33:26**).

3. We relate to God as the righteous, not because we have no sin but because we have Jesus, and He restored our righteousness.

- Our fellowship comes through Jesus (**1 Corinthians 1:9**).
- Sin-consciousness causes a break in our fellowship.
- Revelation of our righteousness in Him maintains our fellowship.

4. God did not just restore our righteousness; He *became* our righteousness.

It is in the person of Christ, that we have fellowship with God.

- He sent Jesus in the flesh and made the covenant with Him because He knew that Jesus would not break the covenant.

6. We become beneficiaries of the covenant because we are in Jesus, by faith.

- Jesus is our righteousness and He will never fail so our righteousness will never fail (**1 Corinthians 1:30**).
- Now that we are made the righteousness of God, we are brought to a state where God will never reject us (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

7. We have the “Word of Righteousness”

- We have the word of righteousness and need to grow up in it (**Hebrews 5:12-14**).
- Milk – preaching from the pulpit.
- Milk is good for babies and as a place for us to start, but we need to mature in the word that we hear, and this requires that we search it out.
- You must come to a surety of who you are and what you have.
- We must grow up and know this righteousness because we have learned to operate our lives from it.

BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – PART 1

1. Righteousness is a foundation for your faith.

- **Romans 1:17** |For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
- If you want to be a faith person you must know your righteousness.

2. Righteousness gives us a common identity.

- **Romans 2:26-29** |Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. |
- **2 Peter 1:1** |Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. |
- **Romans 3:22** |Even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference. |

3. Righteousness gives you an assurance in the sight of the accuser.

- **Romans 3:26-31** |To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the

contrary, we establish the law. |

- If you believe in Jesus, God believes in you!
- **Romans 8:33** |Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. |
- Who can lay anything against God's elect? d by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one

4. Gives you an authority in this life.

Romans 5:17 “For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

- Righteousness makes you reign in life.
- Satan runs when we are submitted to God.
- **Hebrews 1:8** “But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

5. Righteousness gives you a promise that you'll mature.

- **Romans 9:28** “For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.”
- Notice He says He will finish the work in righteousness. A finished work is complete and mature.
- **Hebrews 5:13-14** “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

6. Righteousness gives you the benefit of having obeyed the law.

• **Romans 8:2-4** “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

7. Righteousness gives you an inner spiritual sustenance.

- **Romans 14:17** “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- It gives you strength you wouldn’t normally have.

8. Righteousness gives your life a glorious appearance.

- **2 Corinthians 3:9** “For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.”
- Christians can be noted by their joyous appearance.
- It puts a twinkle in your eye.

9. Righteousness gives you an armour for your heart.

• **2 Corinthians 6:7** “By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.”

Righteousness is protection for you.

- **Ephesians 6:14** “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.”
- The breastplate of righteousness will protect your heart and your vital organs.

10. Gives you something good to help others with.

- **2 Corinthians 9:10** “Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”
- Fruits of righteousness come from seeds of righteousness that we can sow into the lives of others.

BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – PART 2

11. Righteousness gives you a new spiritual identity and nature.

- **Ephesians 4:24** “And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- I have put on the new man.

12. Righteousness gives you a promised reward.

- **2 Timothy 4:8** “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- The crown of righteousness.

13. Righteousness gives you an unwarranted joy and sense of well-being.

- **Hebrews 1:9** “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”
- There are times that even in the middle of great difficulty you can receive the oil of gladness even beyond what others have because you loved righteousness.

14. Righteousness gives you a power to mature.

- **Hebrews 5:13-14** “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- Becoming skilled in the word of righteousness brings maturity.
- This brings confidence.

15. Gives you promise of health in this life.

- **1 Peter 2:24** “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.”

Matthew 9:12-13 |When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- Whole | righteous

- Sick | sinners
- This does not mean if you are sick that it is a result of your sin. It means that as the righteous, you have a right to be healthy and whole.

16. Righteousness gives you victory over fear and persecutions.

- **1 Peter 3:14** |But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."
- Don't be afraid of their threats.

17. Righteousness gives you mental and emotional peace.

- **Isaiah 32:17-18** |The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. |
- Peace, quietness, assurance forever.
- This leads to confidence!

18. Righteousness gives new power to your prayer life.

- **James 5:16** |Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. |
- Of a righteous man...

We need to remember that righteousness is the position and the condition that we are in. We gained it by faith. Coming into the knowledge of that righteousness is a requirement for consistently living in the benefits of it. Therefore, satan hates it when believers are confident in their righteousness and fights so hard to keep us in a sin-consciousness.

When we stand in our righteousness, and know who we are in Christ, our faith becomes very powerful against all the devices of

the enemy.

Understanding our righteousness is absolutely key to living a victorious Christian life and consistently producing things for God's Kingdom.