

Righteousness

January 15, 2025

Romans 3:25; Romans 8

No. 2

We are currently examining some of the things that Jesus is to us.

We saw last time that Jesus is our Advocate.

He is our defense attorney who pleads our case before the Father.

As the Apostle John said in:

I Jn 2:1 I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

And,

We need an Advocate because in:

Rev 12:10 ...the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

This takes place in the Great Tribulation.

So,

Not only is Jesus our Advocate, but He is also our Righteousness.

Question:

Why does Jesus have to be our Righteousness?

Ans. Because we have no righteousness of our own.

And only the Righteous can enter into Heaven.

Remember

God's love doesn't get us into Heaven, His Righteousness does.

And,

For those who believe they have a Righteousness based on their good works:

Is 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;

And,

The Apostle Paul commented in:

Rom 3:10 THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

So I think we now understand our need for a Righteousness that goes beyond our own good works.

Let's look at 4 aspects of this Righteousness:

1. God's righteousness

God is Holy and Righteous in all His ways.

When you combine His Holiness and Righteousness with Love, you have Grace.

Because you cannot have Grace without righteousness.



Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,*

The "salvation" provided the Righteousness.

Without the atonement for sin, there can be no Righteousness dispensed on our behalf.

Rom 3:25 *God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;*

V.26 *for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Therefore,

Because God is Righteous, we are made righteous through faith in Christ.

"Righteousness" *dikaiosune* – to be made acceptable to God

2. Man's Righteousness

As we previously mentioned, a word that can describe man's righteousness is "inadequate."

In light of what we have already seen concerning man's Righteousness:

Is 64:6 *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;*

Rom 3:10 *THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;*

Jesus, Himself had some words to say:

Mt 5:20 *For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

The Scribes and Pharisees had good works, but all human works are "inadequate."

Def. Insufficient for a purpose.

I call it "inability to satisfy God's just demand."

The Scribes were the more learned and expounders of the Law.

The Pharisees were engaged in the strictness of the Law.

Although many Pharisees failed in their abiding by the Law, those that succeeded still fell short of the required Righteousness to dwell with God.

Because God requires perfect Righteousness and no one is perfect.

3. Imputed Righteousness

Jesus Christ represents the Righteousness of God.

When a person becomes "in Christ" Christ's perfect Righteousness now becomes the Righteousness of that believer.

II Cor 5:21 *He made Him, (Christ), who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

"become" *ginomai* – to become something you were not before

We went from being unrighteous to being Righteous because of Christ.

Righteousness is through faith as Paul said in:

Rom 4:3 *For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."*

Gen 15:6

And what did Abraham believe?

Gen 15:5 *He, (God), took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

4. Imparted Righteousness

"Impart" means to make known or bestow a quality

Rom 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

v.2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

v.3 *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,*

V.4 *so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Imparted Righteousness is that which the Holy Spirit produces inside the believer.

That results in the believer's Righteous conduct.

The Righteousness of Christ does 2 things for us:

1. Makes us acceptable to God
2. Provides for a righteous way of life through the power of the Holy Spirit

Summary

1. Only God (Godhead) possesses perfect Righteousness. To dwell with God, one must possess that same perfect Righteousness.
2. Mankind's Righteousness is inadequate or insufficient to dwell with God. His good works and religiosity do not produce the perfect Righteousness required.
3. Through faith in Christ as Savior, the believer is placed "in Christ," and now shares His righteousness. That is imputed righteousness.
4. Imparted Righteousness is now, through the power of the Holy Spirit, living "in" that Righteousness that God provided.

*Eph 4:24 put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, Eph 4:1*

this should give us a good sense on how to live the Christian way of life.