

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

(Outline # 13)

Meditation:

INTRODUCTION: The study of Righteousness by faith is a broad subject and is often controversial. However, our object is to cover the fundamentals and basic principles of the steps and process by which we reach perfection.

1. The Gospel Is To Change US

Read: Romans 1:16-17

- a. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
- b. "For therein" (the gospel) the Righteousness of God is revealed." That is, the Character (Righteousness) of God is revealed in His word (the gospel).
- c. He that has been Justified (The Just) will live by faith.
- d. This passage summarizes in a nutshell the subject of Righteousness by Faith.
The gospel has the power to save us and make us like Christ, because it reveals His character, so He that has received God's pardon or justification walks in His word by faith, and of course, that faith will lead us to salvation.

Read: Matthew 1: 21

Jesus was born to save us, not in sin but from sin.

Read: Zechariah 3:1-4

- a. We notice that God took away Joshua's (God's people symbolically) filthy garments, he did not cover it up.
- b. So God does not cover our righteousness He takes it away and gives us His character (His Robe-Righteousness).

2. The Goal is Perfection

Read: Matthew 5:48

- a. We are to be perfect in our sphere as Christ/God is in His. (*DA* 311, *COL* 331-333) *Further Proof:* 2 Cor. 13:11, Ephesians 4:11-13

3. What is Perfection?

There are two classes or types of perfection.

- a. Living up to all the light one receives.
- b. The perfection of the future —as how we will be in heaven. This is what could be referred to as Glorification.

Present State Perfection.

- a. Christians are to be as the ear of corn-perfect at every stage of growth according to the light we have. James 4:17

- b. We are only held accountable for the light we have. (See also 17 116)

Future State Perfection

Read: Isa. 33:24

- a. The kingdom inhabitants will not be physically ill.

Read: Luke 20:34-36

- a. When Jesus returns we will be Immortal, like the angels.

4. **The Law Requires Perfect Obedience**

Read: 1 John 3:4

- a. Whoever sins breaks the commandments of God.

Read: James 2:10

- a. If we break one law we break them all.

Read: Revelation 22:14

- a. We must keep the law if we are to enter the New Jerusalem.

5. **All Are Condemned To Eternal Death**

Read: Romans 3:10,11,23

- a. No one is righteous or can seek God.
- b. We have all sinned and have fallen short of God's character (Glory).

Read: Romans 6:23

- a. We are all condemned to eternal death as a result of sin. (See also Romans 5:12.)

6. **All Need Grace/Pardon (Righteousness by Grace)**

Read: Romans 5:15

- a. Although mankind (or individual) was condemn to eternal sin and death, Christ died and gave us pardon-grace.

Read: Ephesians 2:5,8,9

- a. We receive grace as a gift from God not because of our works.

Read: Romans 11:5-6

- a. We are called into the election of God not because of any good works of our own, but through God's grace.
- b. We, therefore, are invited to become Christians, the children of God, not because we deserve to be adopted by Him, but because of His favor toward us.

Read: Romans 3:20

If The law does not save us, it condemns and upholds righteousness - through it we have the knowledge of sin. So grace saves us from the penalty of the law because we have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and deserve eternal death and separation from God.

7. **Righteousness By Grace Is Justification**

Read: Romans 3:24-25

- a. God's grace justifies, redeems, and gives us remission from our past sins.

Read: Titus 3:7

- a. Grace justifies us back in harmony with God and allows to become Heirs of the hope of eternal life.

Read: Romans 5:1-2

- a. Being justified brings us back in harmony with God —it gives us peace with God —it sets us free from the condemnation of the Law. *Further proof:* Romans 5:9; 1 Cor. 6:11; Galatians 2:16 Note: This is what is referred as the New Birth. This could be the time of Baptism.

8. **Walking In Faith (Righteousness By Faith)**

Read: Romans 1:17

- a. He that is already justified (freed from the sins of the past) must continue in faith.

Read: Hebrews 11:1

- a. By faith not by sight we know that we are sons of God, citizens of His kingdom, and as such we submit ourselves to His Word, rules and laws. (Romans 10:17) Faith is implicit trust in God's word and believing it will accomplish what it says - both personally and otherwise.

Read: Romans 8:1-10,14

- a. After being justified we still have our carnal natures and this struggle to do right. So the two natures (God's and ours -the carnal) fight for the mastery.
- b. But to him who surrenders completely to God's spirit, He is not condemned because He keeps the law Only through the Power of God, who also condemned sin in the flesh.

Read: Galatians 2:20

- a. The true Christian has crucified himself (His own plans, hopes, way of thinking, lifestyle) to Christ's way of life and thinking in Him by faith.

Read: Philippians 3:8,9,10-14

- a. The true Christian counts everything loss (or as if loss-or surrendered) to Christ's Word.
- b. In doing this he is accredited to be righteous.
- c. This is accomplished through his faith in God's power.
- d. His faith keeps him pressing onward toward the goal of perfection.
- e. Righteousness by faith means to obey the Lord —it is behaving.

9. **Righteousness By Faith Is Sanctification**

Read: Acts 26:18

- a. God's people are sanctified by faith-that is, as they live or surrender their entire being to God and His Word, they are purified. *Further Proof:* Romans 15:16, Hebrews 10:10, 1 Peter 1:22

10. **The Word Of God Has The Power To Sanctify**

Read: John 17:17,19

- a. Truth or the Word of God is the medium or power that cleanses us. But we must yield to it - we must follow or surrender to God's Word. (See also Ephesians 5:26)

11. **The Crowning Act (Righteousness Of Christ)**

Read: Ezekiel 36:24-26

- a. Here we are given a new heart without any struggle with sin.
Further proof: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Read: Revelation 2: 7,11,17; Revelation 3:5,12,21

- a. He that overcomes by faith will be honored.
- b. Righteousness of Christ is Glorification

Summary: Being already a sinner, man is by the law condemned to death. Only by "grace", therefore, can he be set free from the condemnation of the law. The sinner, consequently, is a lawbreaker, and the righteous is a law-keeper. "Grace", therefore, pardons the sinner, lets him out of prison, so to speak, and gives him another chance to overcome sin; but "faith" keeps him free. The sum of the matter is this: "Righteousness through grace" is righteousness through pardon, while "Righteousness through faith" is righteousness through behaving, and it is crowned with "the Righteousness of Christ."

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