

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OURS

Introduction: Look up the Bible texts and write a summary of what you read on the lines provided.

Righteousness:

Matthew 6::33 _____

Psalms 119:172 _____

Righteousness is rightness in all things. In the Scriptures it is shown to us through God's commandments, His Word, His Ways, acts, government and judgments. It is that quality of perfect, unerring rightness in every thought, word, plan and action.

Psalms 119:96 _____

(Psalms 71:15,19)

The italicized word, "but" in verse 96 is supplied by the editors and does not appear in the original Hebrew manuscripts. Occasionally, these inserted words do more to cloud the meaning than to improve on it. In this case it is better to read the verse without it. The end, or ultimate, of perfection is God's Law (Psalms 19:7). His commandment is so very broad in its meaning that there is nothing else anywhere that is so righteous and good. The Law states for us what God requires in order for man to be in harmony with Him.

Romans 2:13 _____

To be in line for the gift of eternal life, the Law of God requires from us a flawless righteousness in every aspect of our lives beginning to end. Only doers or satisfiers of the Law will be acceptable to God and justified.

A Survey of Human Nature:

At conception & birth:

Psalms 51:5 _____

(Psalms 58:3; Ephesians 2:3)

In childhood & youth:

Jeremiah 3:25 _____

(Psalms 25:7; Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:22)

In adulthood:

Job 25:4-6 _____

(Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20)

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Human righteousness:

Job 9:20,30 and 31 _____
(Isaiah 64:6)

Jeremiah 2:22 _____
(Micah 7:4)

God's Law demands more perfect righteousness than any human being has in himself. From conception to maturity man is full of sin and corruption - time reveals it. The presence of a sinful nature disqualifies any righteousness he may think he has in himself at any time. It is no wonder that the Scriptures should plainly say, "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool," and "Cursed is the man who trusts in man." Proverbs 28,26; Jeremiah 17:5,9.

It is necessary then that we find a righteousness somewhere else to meet the righteous requirements of the Law. None of our goodness or works will do. As Jesus told us, we are to "Seek ... His Righteousness." Here is the only answer to our great need.

A Look at Christ Our Substitute:

At conception & birth:

Matthew 1:20,21 _____
(Luke 1:35)

In childhood & youth:

Acts 4:27,30 _____
(Luke 2:40,52)

In adulthood:

John 8:46 _____
(Mark 1:24; 1 Peter 2:22)

His Righteousness:

Isaiah 53:11 _____
(1 John 2:1; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Matthew 3:15; 5:17; Jeremiah 23:5)

The good news is that what we must bring to the law - perfect, sinless righteousness - has already been brought by Jesus Christ for us. He has been conceived in our place, born, raised, matured, and lived in our place a substitute life that fully satisfies all the laws' demands for our eternal life. Martin Luther put it this way, "Mine are Christ's living, doing, and speaking, His suffering and dying, mine as much as If I had lived, done, spoken, suffered

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and died as He did. ... Therefore everything which Christ has is ours, graciously bestowed on us unworthy men out of God's sheer mercy, although we have rather deserved wrath, condemnation and hell also." Sermon in 1519 AD: "Two Kinds of Righteousness", as referenced in Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings, John Dillenberger, (New York: Doubleday Anchor, 1961), pp.86,87.

Two Groups Compared:

Romans 10:3,4 _____

Ignorance about what the "righteousness of God" means leads us to depend upon ourselves or our own 'supposed' goodness for salvation. But believing in Christ as our righteousness puts an end to trying to work out of ourselves enough goodness to please the Law, something that is impossible to do anyway, (Job 14:4).

Philippians 3:8,9 _____

(Romans 5:17)

Anything that we have relied upon in the past to give us standing with God is as worthless as dung before God. Much more is required: God's own righteousness which is a gift to us in Christ. If you believe that Jesus Christ has lived and died for you personally and you trust in Him to save you from the Law's wrath, you have God's righteousness covering you. Upon this basis eternal life is guaranteed to you (1 John 5:11,12).

Accepting God's Righteousness:

Romans 4:3,22-24 _____

Romans 10:6-10 _____

Righteousness was credited to Abraham because of his believing and relying on God's Words. He was "counted" righteous and Justified not "made" righteous. He was righteous in God's sight by faith not by visible right in his life. Abraham's righteousness for his salvation was not on earth but in heaven, not in himself but in Christ. (Galatians 5:5)

Righteousness on Display:

As we believe God's Word about Christ and trust Him for righteousness, it is counted on our record in God's presence. But also we are given a second gift, one which involves our lives on earth. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit. He comes to us to change our lives from sin to lives filled with truth, right doing, and goodness. The Holy Spirit seeks to put on display as much as possible in our daily living the righteous life-principles of Jesus Christ.

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Romans 8:1,4 _____
(Ephesians 5:9,10)

Isaiah 45:22,24,25 _____

Psalms 89:14-16 _____