



## Righteousness Part 2

In **Righteousness Part 1**, I taught that the righteousness of God is attained not by your godliness but by believing in Christ. I also taught that righteousness is eternal. In other words, we are righteous not just until our next sin but for all eternity. We are the righteousness of God in spite of our daily sins because Christ has paid for all our past, present, and even future sins once and for all. It's just a matter of you believing in such an unmerited favor given to us as a believer in Christ.

*-Aren't we all sinners? Don't we all fall short of the glory of God?*

That's correct. We all fall short of the glory of God yet thanks be to Jesus Christ who took all our sins upon himself and imparted to us His righteousness as a gift when we believed in Him. Let's take a closer look at the verse where it says we all fall short of the glory of God.

### **Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)**

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, **declares that we are righteous**. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Firstly, it is very accustomed to take one verse and miss all of Paul's point in the Book of Romans. There are a lot of 'one-verse wonders' that are building doctrines around single verses and teaching contrary to the Gospel of Grace of Christ.

Secondly, did you notice the sandwich in the verses above? It started in verse 22 with declaring that righteousness came to you by faith no matter who you are or what you've done. Then, it stated that all have fallen short of the glory of God. The writer then brings the reader back to the focus of being declared righteous.

God by His unmerited favor, freely and gratuitously declares you righteous in the person of Jesus Christ, through His finished work for all who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior.

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.

Christ being the righteousness of God did not deserve our sin because there was no sin in Him, never committed sin in actions or thoughts, yet he was made sin. In like manner, we being sin, committing sin and thinking sin didn't deserve to be made the righteousness of God yet we were made the righteousness of God. You gave Him your bad, He gave you His good. It was where the great exchange took place.

A great man of God described it in this manner:

- “A man cannot be in Christ and have the Devil's nature in him. He is either in the family of God or in the family of Satan. There can be no real development of faith, no strong, victorious Christian life with this mixed conception. We are either new creations or we are not. We have either passed out of death into life, or we have not.” – **E.W. Kenyon**

As a believer in Christ you are no longer a sinner but the righteousness of God in Christ. Receiving the salvation of Christ and the gift of righteousness goes hand in hand. You can't receive one and not the other. The very reason believers in Christ disagree that they are the righteousness of God is because they are still hung on the law to establish their own righteousness so God can deal blessings to them proportional to their holiness, obedience, and performance. It's because of their self-righteousness.

### **Matthew 6:33**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

A non-believer (sinner) cannot change his or her position by the amount of works performed. In order for the sinner to become righteous, the sinner needs to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. In other words, works or deeds cannot make the sinner forfeit his position before God. It is possible for a non-believer to live a holy life and perform good works without ever receiving the righteousness that comes from God. The Jewish non-believer is a perfect example.

I encourage you to stop seeking righteousness through godliness, and your own standard of right living and relying on these things for your spiritual growth and relationship with God because it will profit you nothing. Instead seek for His righteousness by seeing Jesus being made sin for you, so He could give His righteousness when you believe in Him. Jesus has provided us His righteous sweat-free, without the turmoil of religion and the continual suffering of achieving spiritual growth. When you look to Jesus and believe you are righteous because of Christ you cannot help but walk in the fruits of the Spirit, you cannot help but be the better person; you cannot help but live a life of transformation to honor God. The Holy Spirit will begin to transform you and you will walk a holier life by accident than you ever did on purpose.

Also, when you believe that you are the righteousness of God in Christ, you will begin to receive all the blessings of the Lord without you trying to reach for them. Health, wholeness, financial provisions, established relationships, etc. are some of the blessings of Abraham that crown the head of the righteous as a gift. This is an amazing grace about an amazing gift...

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