

righteousness

1. What is righteousness?
2. How do we achieve righteousness?
3. What are the benefits of righteousness?

1. What is righteousness?

THERE is no other word in the Bible, or in theology which is less understood and appreciated than this word.

Yet within it is everything which humanity has craved.

Righteousness restores to man all that he lost in the Fall, plus a new relationship as a son with all its privileges.

It is defined as conformity of heart and life to the divine law.

To be righteous is to be in the right as concerns the law.

When I am righteous I live without fear, before God and before Man I have no fear, no shame and no condemnation.

This is a position no person had ever been able to achieve since Adam committed high treason yet it is the very position every person needs.

Rom 3:10 (NASB) as it is written: "THERE IS NO RIGHTEOUS PERSON, NOT EVEN ONE;

2. How do we achieve righteousness?

First lets look at how we don't.

Rom 10:2-3 (NASB) For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. [3] For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Rom 10:3 (NLT) For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law.

Man has always known that he needed righteousness. But he has not always known how to become righteous.

So man has invented his own way of gaining a position of righteousness. We call this way - religion aka self-righteousness.

But keeping the law, any law, is not God's way of making us righteous.

Rom 3:20 (TPT) For by the merit of observing the law no one earns the status of being declared righteous before God, for it is the law that fully exposes and unmask the reality of sin.

Rom 3:21-24 (NASB) But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, [22] but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] being justified [made righteous] as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 4:2-5 (NASB) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God.

All throughout the NT you will see that the scripture never allows boasting in what you or I have done.

If you boast about what you have done you are a legalist, religious trusting in your works.

Eph 2 says it beautifully...."by grace, through faith." Not as a result of works so that NO ONE may boast.

If your boasting is about what HE has done then you are standing in Grace.

[3] For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." [4] Now to the one who works, the wages are not credited as a favor, but as what is due. [5] But to the

one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Credited - moved into his account.

Rom 4:5 (TPT) But no one earns God's righteousness. It can only be transferred when we no longer rely on our own works, but believe in the one who powerfully declares the ungodly to be righteous in his eyes. It is faith that transfers God's righteousness into your account!

This is where Grace blows everyones mind.

For some odd reason we as humans feel like we gotta do something to earn - especially in spiritual things.

That's why religion comes up with really hard things to do, some even inflict bodily pain upon themselves cause the harder the task the greater the reward.

But the whole purpose of the law was to show us how we could never, no matter how hard we tried be good enough.

We try and we fail.

We do things we don't want to do, and the things we want to do we don't do even though we know that we ought to and we grow increasingly frustrated.

That was the whole point. So that then when Christ is introduced to us we throw ourselves at HIS mercy and say, I tried and I failed so I put my trust in YOU.

And at that point everything HE is we become.

It has nothing to do with my behavior.

I can be righteous and behave in an unrighteous fashion if I do that am I still righteous?

Rich but acting poor

So I am made righteous by grace through faith.

Rom 5:17 (AMPC+) For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

If you missed it I want to put Romans 4 back on the screen.

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2Co 5:21 (NASB) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

We don't stand in some 2nd rate half and half righteousness

God has gifted us perfect righteousness.

We do not grow in Righteousness. We are made Righteous, and Righteousness is credited to us. God Himself is our Righteousness and He made Jesus to be Righteousness unto us.

There is no such thing as growth in Righteousness.

There is growth in the knowledge of what Righteousness means. There is growth in acting as though we were Righteous. There is growth in faith in our Righteousness.

3. What are the benefits of righteousness?

Righteousness gives us back our lost dominion - makes us masters of our environment just as our Master was master of His environment.

We must know who we are - as He knew who He was.

Satan and demons know who we are, but sometimes we ourselves do not know.

Jesus said, "I came out from the Father."

We can say, "We know we are born of God and that whosoever is born of God overcometh the world."

Have you ever realized what it means to come boldly to the throne of grace?

Have you ever realized what it means for us to be able to stand in the Father's presence today as Jesus did in His earth walk?"

Joh 11:41-42 (AMPC) So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. [42] Yes, I know You always hear and listen to Me, but I have said this on account of and for the benefit of the people standing around, so that they may believe that You did send Me [that You have made Me Your Messenger].

Jesus had no fear. Actually He had a complete confidence that His prayer had already been answered.

A benefit of righteousness is that we can have that same fearless confidence

We are masters because He is our Master. And as our Master, He is working through us."

- As He is, so are we in this world.
- He is a New Creation—so are we.
- He is the Righteousness of God—so are we.
- He is an heir of God—so are we.
- He is Master of the underworld—so are we in His Name.
- As He has fellowship with the Father—so have we.
- As He had authority in heaven and on earth—so in the Name of Jesus we have authority in heaven."