

Lesson Three

The Truth about Righteousness

John 8:31-32 King James Version (KJV)

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

I. **Review**

- A. The nature of the enemy - lies and deceit
- B. The nature of God - Truth
- C. The nature of the Word of God - The Word is Truth
- D. The Word of God Sanctifies/sets us apart
- E. Truth is the key to possessing our inheritance
- F. Wherever there is a lack of truth, there is a lack of blessing
- G. Accept the truth of God's word regarding all beliefs

II. **THE Truth about Righteousness**

A. **What is righteousness?**

- 1. Acting in accord to divine or moral law
- 2. Morally right
- 3. Right – good – just – moral – honest – upright – decent –
- 4. **Bible Definition** = right in God's eyes – or Right standing with God

B. **The Requirement of Righteousness**

- Righteousness is a requirement to access and enter the presence of God

Psalm 34:19 ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Proverbs 14:34 ³⁴Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people

Matthew 5:20 KJV

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 6:33 KJV ³³But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you

James 5:16 ¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Matthew 5:6 ⁶Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE FOUNDATIONAL KEY TO RECEIVING ALL THINGS FROM THE LORD

III. How do I become Righteous?

A. Misconceptions about righteousness

1. Righteousness with God is based on performance
2. I can earn a righteous standing with God based on my works
3. I can increase and decrease righteousness based on works
4. True righteousness is spiritual perfection in works

B. What does the Bible say about becoming righteous?

Ephesians 4:24 ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is **created** in righteousness and true holiness

- *Your new man is CREATED in righteousness the day you get saved*

Romans 10:1-3 ¹Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ²For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish **their own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God

- *Two type of righteousness –*
 1. *Self Righteousness*
 2. *God's Righteousness*

Romans 3:20-22 KJV ²⁰Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²²Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

- *The righteousness that God accepts is apart from the works of the Law*
- *The righteousness that God accepts is that of FAITH in JESUS*

NIV Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin

Romans 5:19 kjv ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be **made righteous**.

- *Jesus obedience made me righteous - not mine!*
- *My obedience is to obey the gospel – Have Faith!*

Galatians 2:15-16 NIV ¹⁵"We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Titus 3:5 KJV ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Galatians 2:21 kjv ²¹I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

IV. The Blessing of Righteousness

A. Access to the Father

Hebrews 4:14-16 ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

B. The Blessing of a Righteous Heritage - *Possession – inheritance – Property that may be inherited =*

Isaiah 54:17 ¹⁷No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.