

The Importance of Understanding Righteousness

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Broadcast Dates: 3/12/26-3/13/26 & 3/16/26

Message Date: 7/21/24 • 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 5:21, *NLT*
- 1 Corinthians 1:30, 31, *NLT*
- Galatians 2:16, *NLT*
- Acts 20:24
- Acts 20:24, *NLT*
- Galatians 1:6, 7
- Romans 5:17, *NLT*
- Hebrews 5:12, 13

Summary:

*Believers have been made right with God. He sees us as righteous not because of anything good we've done, but because of what Jesus did and our faith in that. This is a significant departure from Old-Testament law, which demanded strict obedience and constant self-effort to earn righteousness. Our right-standing with God is the result of being born again; at that point, He immediately saw us as holy, perfect, and redeemed. This **stance** in Christ is permanent and independent of our behavior, which reflects our continually transforming **state** on our Christian journey. God will continue to work in us until our state evolves to meet our stance. Understanding what He's trying to teach us equips us to bring the Word of grace to a guilt-ridden, sin-conscious world.*

Notes:

1. Our righteousness comes from God; we could never earn it no matter how hard we try. We can't brag or boast about our own righteousness because it was made possible by Jesus' performance, not ours.
2. The definitions of righteousness are right-standing with God, the ability to stand in the Father's presence as if we had never sinned, and the ability to stand in His presence with no fear, shame, or sense of inferiority.
3. Unlike under the law, God's grace negates the need for our self-efforts to please Him. Because of Jesus, we can now focus on God's Word as specifically being the almost-too-good-to-be-true message of the Gospel of Grace.
4. Understanding our righteousness moves us past self-condemnation, helps us deal with the feeling of never being enough (which stems from self-condemnation), and defeats the feeling that there is always something lacking in us that prevents God from being satisfied with us.
5. Our faith in Christ makes us right with God. Believing we are righteous matures us. This weans us spiritually from milk to meat.

Category: righteousness/salvation

Keywords: righteousness, righteous, faith, self-effort, holy, perfect, redeemed, guilt-ridden