

Righteousness - The Great Exchange
He Did It For Me - Romans 3:20-26 Handout

04-12-17
Wednesday night

This month, we're looking at the subject of "**Righteousness**" -

- "**Righteousness**" defined means: "**The ability to stand in the presence of God without a sense of guilt or shame, as if sin never existed in our lives.**"

- "**Righteousness**" is also **not** an object or thing to possess but rather a position we have with God.

*Romans 1:16-17. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is **the power of God** to salvation for **everyone who believes**... For in **it the righteousness of God** is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

*****The gospel is the power of God, but the revelation of God's righteousness is the power of the gospel!**

That's why it is so good to **consistently hear & learn about "being made the righteousness of God in Christ"** – because faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God (Rom 10:17).

God & His Holiness, we can't think in terms that means God is just "a better version" of us. Ps 99:9 says - "*Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; **For the LORD our God is holy.***"

Isaiah saw the Lord in His Holiness, and he fell to his knees, crying out "Woe is me for I am undone" -or in other words - "*Oh no, I am in big trouble*"

He felt to his core how utterly unworthy he was to "have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

***** "Us" having been declared "righteous" in sight of Almighty God because of the shed Blood of Jesus Christ is powerful!!**

We're going to look closely at this next section of scripture -

Rom 3:20-26 - "*20 Therefore **by the deeds of the Law** no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

*21 But now **the righteousness of God** apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, 24 being **justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation (settlement) by His blood, through faith, to **demonstrate His righteousness**, because in His forbearance (patience) God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time **His righteousness**, that He might be just **and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

v20 'by the deeds of the Law...shall no flesh be **justified**' (vindicated) –
 -no one can **or** does keep the law

-‘by the Law is the knowledge of sin’ - that was the purpose of the law;
to show us we were sinners and needed help;

-v21 ‘**righteousness of God**’ this is the only kind there is and God’s righteousness has nothing to do with us keeping laws.

Isa 64:6 **tells** us - “*But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*”

Rom 3:10 - “*There is none righteous, no, not one*”

Isa 1:18 “*....."Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."*”

God wanted humanity cleansed completely and restored totally – that’s why Jesus came and fulfilled the Law for us!!

Righteousness, right standing with God, is only obtained by putting our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. -Paul says this over and over in these verses to emphasize it

v23 **‘for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

- ‘to **sin**’ to miss the mark – we all fail to keep the law

v24 ‘being **justified freely by His grace**’ ‘**justified**’ - to be declared righteous - freely!!

(from same root word as ‘*righteousness*’) as a gift

This knowledge of God’s grace should cause gratitude & a desire to live right and serve God with all our heart – we’ve been redeemed!! Ransomed and bought out of slavery at a very high price to God the life of His very own Son!

v26 “*to demonstrate at the present time **His righteousness**, that He might be just **and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus”-*

Sin had to be punished & paid for legally in order for God to be just

And the Lord Jesus **bore the wrath of God** against sin

so that we would not have to – **He justified us to God**

When we allow the enemy to make us feel condemned -

as though we’re somehow separated from God, feelings He doesn’t really love **ME** it’s difficult to receive from God.

It’s the Word of God’s Grace and having been made Righteous

that builds us up and causes us to enter into our inheritance in Christ