

Righteousness; “Who wants to be my *Stand-In?*”

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Pastor Adam



Definitions of Righteousness:

1. The ability to stand in the presence of the Father without a sense of guilt, as if sin never existed.
2. Right standing or Uprightness.
3. Not an object or thing to possess but rather a position we have with God.

1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers.”

Proverbs 15:29 “The LORD *is* far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”

Romans 5:17 “...Those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life...”

Isaiah 54:14 “In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, you shall not fear...”

SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!!

We have made too many mistakes for this to apply to our lives.

No one who ever lived was good enough to enter the Presence of God... No one except Jesus!

- **Romans 3:23** For **all have sinned**; all fall short of God's glorious standard.
- **Ephesians 2:1, 3, 12** – this was our spiritual condition.

James 2:10 “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and **yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**”

Deuteronomy 28 - All of these blessings would be yours, if you kept the Law – but no one could keep the law!

So why put these verses in?

The Lord Jesus Christ – “I’ll Take Your Spot!”

Humanity means everything to God and He had no intention of allowing us to be eternally separated from Himself.

- **Galatians 4:4-5** “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”
- **Galatians 3:13** Jesus redeemed us from the curse Adam brought on us at the cross.
- **1 John 3:5** “You know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”

This is why **Deuteronomy 28:1-14** was written:

- Jesus kept all of the Law, no one else did or could.
- Jesus alone deserved the blessings, but gave us the blessings and took upon Himself the curses.
- We deserve what is referred to in **vs 15-68**.

OUR KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:21

(Letters) The Father took the Son, who never had any evil in Him, and laid the evil of the entire universe on Him.

(Way) God the Father did this on purpose to render righteousness attainable for us.

(Wood) Think of it! Christ, the sinless, was made the personification of sin for us.

(Jer) For our sake, God made the sinless one into sin.

(Knox) God made Him into sin for us, so that in Him, we might be turned into the holiness of God.

(TLB) God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Requirements For Taking Someone's Place



1. ALL MEANS **All** _____!

- v14 Paul met the Lord and was changed completely – the love of God in Paul helped Him realize that the sacrifice of Jesus was for everyone.
- **John 3:16** “God so loved the WORLD...”

2. YOU'RE NO LONGER LIVING FOR **Yourself** _____!

- v15 Knowing that all of our sin was laid on Jesus should make us desire to live for Him and do His work here in the earth.
- Paul understood what Jesus did for him. If he didn't would have felt too condemned to minister.

3. STOP **Measuring** _____ YOURSELF AGAINST OTHERS!

- v16 Paul would give his life to reach everyone he could with the gospel regardless of who they were.
- **Isaiah 64:6** “...And all our righteousness is like filthy rags.”
- **Philippians 3:5-8** Until Paul met the Lord, he incorrectly judged himself against others.
- Jesus taking on sin levels the playing field.

4. YOU'VE BECOME SOMETHING **Brand New** _____!

- v17 Our spirit has changed and God's love comes to live in our hearts.
- Paul would still have to renew his mind and control his body.
- Paul's past was gone, forgiven, forgotten. God saw him righteous!
- He could minister freely without condemnation.

5. **Righteous** _____ PEOPLE HAVE A JOB TO DO!

- v18 When we understand our righteous position, we should want to share this gift with others.
- Reconcile – to restore to friendly relations.
- This ministry has been given to every believer. It is called a gift!

6. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A **Message** _____ TO SHARE!

- v19 The Father reconciled everyone to Himself through Jesus.
- Our message; your sins have been forgiven and they are not held against you.
- Our Savior, Jesus, made this possible!

7. WE **Represent** _____ SOMEONE HERE ON THE EARTH!

- v20 We all are ambassadors representing the Lord Jesus.
- We are His voice here on the earth

How we act after The Exchange:

- **John 14:30** “...Stan has no claim on Me, no power over Me, nor anything that he can use against Me.”
- **John 11:41-42** “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know that You always hear Me.”