

WORD

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Bible describes the righteous person as just or right, holding to God, and trusting in Him. Living life apart from God is self-righteousness. Jesus offers the gift of salvation which enables a believer to live a righteous life, one that is pleasing and honoring to God. Understanding this truth helps us turn from relying on ourselves and instead trusting God to transform us.

RIGHTEOUSNESS CANNOT BE OBTAINED BY MAN.

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-24

We all need the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ because we are unrighteous and can never live up to God's standard of righteousness. We are guilty of sinning against God and people in our thoughts, words, and actions. The drive to sin comes from our sinful nature that rebels against God (Romans 3:9-18). Even the good and righteous acts we do will never measure up and are unacceptable (Isaiah 64:6). What does Romans 3:10,18 say about our state? Have you tried to get closer to God through works? What happened and why can it never work?

ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN MAKE A PERSON RIGHTEOUS.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

We were justified by grace when God saved us. Justification says something about our standing before God—He has made us clean in His eyes. God sent Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, to cleanse us of our sin, enable us to receive forgiveness, and restore our relationship with the Father. Because of what He did for each of us on the cross, He bestowed His righteousness on us. When we believe in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, the Holy Spirit enables us to live holy lives daily. How has putting your faith in Jesus enabled you to live in freedom and righteousness?

THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE ALL WHO BELIEVE.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17

The word “gospel” literally means “good news.” The good news that Paul preached was the salvation that Jesus won for all mankind. A person can enter into a right relationship with God through faith in Christ. By believing the gospel, one can be born again and have access into the kingdom of God. And this good news is not only for a select group—it is for all who believe in Jesus. According to John 3:16, why and how did God save the world?

APPLICATION

- Do you believe that you are righteous in Christ? Are there any beliefs or mindsets that you need to overcome, in order to embrace this truth? How can you have a greater understanding of Christ's righteousness, and what He has done for you?
- Knowing that Jesus is your righteousness, how will you live this truth out every day?
- What keeps you from being unashamed of the gospel? What is one truth from Scripture that can help you overcome this obstacle?

PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to die for your sins, and for granting you righteousness, once and for all.
- Pray that you would walk in Christ's righteousness daily. Declare the truth of His death and resurrection over your life.
- Ask God for opportunities to preach the gospel to your family, friends, classmates, and colleagues. Believe God for their salvation and changed lives.



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