



RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

Righteousness of Heavenly, Not Human Origin

- 1) Where does righteousness come from? Dan. 9:7 (first part) Psa. 97:1,2

Note: Righteousness is God's divine possession. No matter how hard he tries, man of himself cannot generate it, manufacture it or fabricate it. Righteousness is the very foundation of God's throne; it is the basis of His government throughout the vast universe.

- 2) Can man be saved by his own works of righteousness? Titus 3:5
- 3) Can man be justified (forgiven and declared righteous) by "the deeds of the law"? Rom. 3:20
- 4) What phrase does the Bible use to describe the righteousness which is "of the law"? Phil. 3:9

Note: Paul uses the phrase "mine own righteousness" to describe the righteousness which is "of the law". When we try to do what is right of our own strength, separate from God, we fail. These self-generated efforts of trying to become righteous by "rule-keeping" causes enormous frustration, anxiety and discouragement. Whenever we try to "be good" without prayer to our almighty Helper, when we strain to do what is right while neglecting to claim the living promises of the Holy One, we forfeit the true righteousness which is by faith. When we try to let our light shine without the golden oil... we fail miserably.

- 5) What emphatic expression does Paul use to affirm that righteousness **cannot** be attained by our own efforts to keep the law? Copy Gal. 2:21 below.

Note: The penalty of man's transgression must be paid Rom. 6:23. The death of our Savior on Calvary mercifully removes man's guilt. His perfect life and atoning death is only basis for righteousness. Paul states clearly that we are justified by His blood Rom. 5:9. If by our own rule-keeping we could create our own righteousness, there would have been no purpose for Jesus to come to this world and suffer and die.

- 6) How does the Bible describe the righteousness that man manufactures of himself? Isa. 64:6

Note: When separated from Christ, every attempt to obey God's rules is polluted with selfishness and destined to fail. Isaiah describes this self-generated righteousness as a mass of dirty rags. Like a dry leaf before a strong wind,

our iniquities blow us along without our consent or control. In contrast the righteousness that we receive by Christ coming and living His life within us, is described as being “clean and white”. Rev. 19:7,8

Righteousness By Faith and the Life of Christ

7) What is one of the most significant names by which our Lord is to be called? Jer. 23:6

Note: Jesus has many titles and names in the Scriptures but one of the most important is given at the end of this verse. It is one of the few instances in the whole Bible where it is written out all in capital letters...THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. In Jer. 33:16 the Bible declares that this is the same wonderful name by which the Church shall be known. The heavenly Groom and His bride share the same name.

1) How does the Bible describe Jesus’ relationship to the law and righteousness? Rom. 10:4

Note: The word “end” in this verse comes from the Greek word “telos” (Strong’s number 5056). It means “the goal” or “the point aimed at”. While many use this text to try to do away with keeping of God’s holy law, the Greek definition of the Word reveals the opposite. This “end” here mentioned does not mean the cancellation of the law but that Christ’s perfect life was “the conclusion of an act or state” of keeping the law. The expression “Christ is the end of the law” means that Jesus’ life is “end result” of the law being lived out in its fullness.

2) What reason does Paul give for God sending His Son into the world? Rom. 8:3,4

Note: After stating that God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, the marginal reading for the last part of verse three says: “and by a sacrifice for sin” condemned sin in the flesh that **the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled IN US**, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. Jesus was not sent just so that His righteousness would be placed to our account in the books in Heaven but that it might become part and parcel of our human experience. Christ is to live within each Christian Col. 1:27.

3) What did Isaiah prophesy Jesus would do for the law? Isa. 42:21

Note: Christ, by His teachings and personal example, showed the far-reaching claims of God’s law. He taught that the law’s command of “thou shalt not kill” goes beyond the literal act of murder, condemning unjustified anger Matt. 6:21,22. Jesus magnified the law by teaching that the law’s ban against adultery, extends beyond the physical act and also includes all adulterous thoughts Matt.6 27,28.

4) What words did Jesus use to declare that He lived His entire life in obedience to God?
John 15:10 (second part) John 14:30

Note: Jesus said: “I have kept my Father’s commandments”. His life was one of continual obedience to His Father’s will. He could truthfully say: “...I do **always** those things that please Him” John 8:29. The enemy of souls never could gain the smallest foothold in the mind of the Savior. There was not even one tiny spot in Christ’s heart which Satan could claim. Jesus said: “...The prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in Me.”

5) What words does Peter use to describe the life Jesus lived? 1Pet. 2:21-23

6) When we are dead to self, Who is to live within us? Gal. 2:20

True Righteousness Revealed in an Obedient Life

- 7) What will happen in our experience when we are “awake” to righteousness? 1Cor. 15:34 (first part)

Note: When we are truly awake to righteousness we will “sin not”. Righteousness and sin are at opposite ends of the spiritual spectrum. The opposite idea is also true. Those who are asleep –or not aware of – righteousness **will commit sin**. Please note that sin can be present in a lifestyle that on the surface is quite religious. Paul informs us that the Jewish nation “being ignorant of God's righteousness” went “about to establish their own righteousness” Rom 10:3. There are many Church members who are held fast in the chains of sin who pride themselves in their proper dress, abstemiousness diet, church attendance or Bible reading habits.

- 8) What does Daniel plead with king Nebuchadnezzar **to do** “by righteousness”? Dan. 4:27

Note: Daniel begs the Babylonian King to “break off” his sins through righteousness. The righteousness of God snaps off sinful thoughts and habits like so many dead branches. In the second part of the verse Daniel touches on the idea that Christ’s righteousness digs out the taproot of selfishness. Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that he can break off his iniquities by allowing the benevolence of God to spring up within his heart through showing mercy to the poor. The psalmist emphasizes that those who “consider the poor” will be protected in the Time of Trouble Psa. 41:1,2.

- 9) What words does John use to explain that righteousness is not just something you believe in your head, but something that you **actually do**? 1John 3:7,8

Note: The most common OT Hebrew word for righteousness is: **tsedaqah**: which means “rightness... rectitude... justice ...virtue”. The most common Greek NT word for righteousness is: **dikaioisune** (1343) which means “equity of character or act”. This Greek word comes from (1342) **dikaiois**, which Strong’s Concordance defines as “**equitable (in character or act), by implication innocent, holy.**”

- 10) Who does Peter say is accepted with God? Acts 10:34, 35

Note: Not those who simply talk about righteousness are accepted with God, but him who “worketh” righteousness. The Greek word for “worketh” is: **ergazomai** (2038) it means: “to toil”; to” be engaged in or with”. This is in harmony with John’s counsel to love not just in words but “in deed and in truth” 1John 3:18.

- 11) What does the Psalmist equate with righteousness? Psa. 119:172

Note: David proclaims that “all of God’s commandments” are righteousness. Each of the Ten Commandments reveals a different aspect of God’s righteousness. The first commandment reveals divine loyalty, the seventh commandment –divine purity. The ninth commandment reveals divine honesty. In order to “do” (1John 3:7) or “work righteousness”(Acts 10:35) we must **ask Christ** to come and live out the principles of His law-abiding life within us.

How Righteousness is Received and Developed

- 12) How did the great men of the Scriptures bring forth righteousness? Heb. 11:33

- 13) How do the just live? Who does Paul contrast them with? Heb. 10:38,39
- 14) Abraham became righteous by faith. How does the Bible describe this experience? Gen. 15:6
- 15) What expression does the Bible use to show that the faith by which righteousness is received, must continue to grow? Rom. 1:16,17
- 16) What brings faith? Rom. 10:17

Note: By reading how men and woman like you and I trusted God's promises in the face of difficulties and came off victorious, our faith will grow stronger and stronger. Our faith strengthens by reading about how Abraham overcame the fear of death's permanence and sacrificed Isaac Heb. 11:17. Its grow strong by reading how Sarah conquered infertility Heb. 11:11. Our faith grows by reading about the multitude crossing the impassable Red Sea by faith Heb. 11:29.

- 17) Look of the following texts. Copy down the Bible requirements in order to have righteousness. a) Matt. 5:6
b) Matt. 6:33
c) Rom. 6:16
d) Psa. 35:28
e) Mal. 3:2,3
f) Isa. 58:6-8

Christ's Righteousness to be Revealed to the World

- 18) To whom is Christ's righteousness to be revealed? Isa. 62:1,2

Note: The unbelieving gentile world is not waiting to see a "forgiven Church" but a Church which has been transformed and sanctified Ezek. 36:23. In Isa. 62:2 we are told that "kings" --representing presidents and heads of state-- will see these holy, righteous people Isa. 60:1-3. As in the days of Daniel and his faithful companions this revelation of true Christianity will be given to men who are in position to help to preserve liberty.

- 19) How will the work of proclaiming the Gospel be finished? Rom. 9:28 Rom. 1:16,17

Note: The finishing up of the Gospel message is not just the preaching of a Christ-centered sermon or the taking of a truth-filled tract to someone in a distant heathen land. The finishing of the work has to do with revealing the righteous character of God **in its fullness** to a sick-sin world. The probation of the world cannot close until unbelievers have had a chance to see people who are "walking and talking" just like Jesus. This is the finishing of the "Mystery of God". (See Rev. 10:7; Col 1:27)

- 20) What does the Bible say will be seen in the earth during the time when the people of the world will truly learn of Christ' righteousness? Isa. 26:9

Note: Isaiah says that God's righteousness will be seen at the time that God's judgments are in the earth. The Bible prophesies that in the last days just before Jesus comes, there will be great catastrophes that will arrest the world's attention. Wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes will be seen during the time when the Gospel will be "preached in all the world" Matt. 24:6,7,14.

21) Isaiah 60:1-3 describes the last grand revelation of Christ' righteousness as God's glory being seen upon His people. What words does the prophet use to describe the worldwide extent of this wonderful heavenly demonstration? Copy Hab. 2:14 below.

Note: Just as men on boats out of sea can lookout and see nothing but water in every direction, God will one day blanket the earth with tens of thousands of people who possess His perfect righteousness. When they teach and preach their voices will be like the roaring of the sea Isa. 5:26-30; Jer. 51:55.