

## Doctrine of Righteousness

1. The righteousness that pleases God comes by faith.
  - *Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*
  - *Romans 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.*
  
2. God is never pleased when a form of righteousness is rooted in good works and for this reason. It was lack of faith, which plummeted humanity into sin. When Lucifer challenged the Word of God and led Adam and Eve to doubt the Lord faith was lost. Not only must Paradise be restored but the integrity of God Himself.
  - *Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*
  
3. The righteousness that comes by the instrument of faith is demanded of the Jew and the Gentile.
  - *Romans 4:9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.*
  - *Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:*
  
4. The promises of God are given in grace and received through the righteousness of faith.
  - *Romans 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*
  
5. The righteousness that was imputed to Abraham is imputed to all that share his faith.
  - *Romans 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;*
  
6. Because Abraham staggered not at the promises of God but believed His word, his faith was imputed for righteousness.
  - *Romans 4:20 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;*

7. The believer is to clothe himself in righteousness.

- *Job 29:14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.*
- *Matthew 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.*

8. Gospel obedience to the Word of God is credited as righteousness.

- *Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.*

9. God properly rewards righteousness.

- *Job 33:26 He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.*

10. The fruits of righteousness may be recognized.

- Spiritual stability and prosperity

*Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

- Fellowship with the Lord.

*Psalms 15:1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. 4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. 5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

- An avoidance of sin and sinner

*Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. 4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.*

- Graciousness and compassion

*Psalm 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*

- A holy fear of God

*Proverbs 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

*Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

- Longer life

*Proverbs 10:16 The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.*

*Proverbs 11:18 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. 19 As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.*

*Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

*Proverbs 12:28 In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.*

- Wisdom for living

*Proverbs 11:5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.*

- A prosperous nation

*Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

- The favor of God

*Prov 21:3 To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.*

- The ability to show mercy

*Proverbs 29:7 The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.*

- Peace

*Isaiah 32:16 Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. 17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. 18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;*

- Joy

*Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

- Natural goodness

*Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

11. A conscious effort must be made to be righteous.

- *Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*

12. The righteousness of the true believer is to exceed that of the Pharisees.

- *Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

13. Sometimes the believer must suffer for the sake of righteousness.

*1 Peter 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

14. There is to be growth in righteousness.

- *2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

15. There is a way to know if one is righteousness.

- *1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

## Doctrine of Righteousness

1. There are several Hebrew words to translate the word "right." Two important words are "yasar" and "mispat."
2. *Yasar* has the sense of "being straight" while the "mispat" is a legal term meaning "judgment" as in a verdict rendered.
  - *Genesis 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*
3. In the New Testament the main word is "dikaios" meaning "equal." It is usually translated "just" or "righteous."
4. The concept of "right" in the sense of "fair" or "equal" is discerned early in the developing consciousness of a child.
5. In a social gathering it is the office of a judge to declare what is right. In the Hebrew community, the judges acted on the behalf of God.
  - *Deuteronomy 1:17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.*
6. God is the Judge of all the earth. He cannot act unfairly.
  - *Genesis 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*
7. God is the fountain or source of justice.
  - *Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. 4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*
  - *Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*
8. God's integrity as Judge will be seen most clearly "in the day of the revelation of the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his works" (Romans 2:6).
  - *Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

9. Since God's verdict is absolutely just, man's righteousness may be defined in terms of God's judgment. "*Sedek*" and "*sedafa*" in the Hebrew and "*dikaiofyne*" in the Greek signified that which conforms to a norm, and for the writers of scripture, that norm is the character of God Himself.
10. The prophet Amos emphasized God's impartial dealings with men and called for a similar righteousness.
- *Amos 5:15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*
  - *Amos 5:24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.*
11. The manifestation of divine righteousness includes
- inflicting retribution.
 

*Isaiah 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

*2 Thessalonians 1:6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*
  - defending the defenseless such as the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger.
 

*Psalms 10:14 Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.*

*Psalms 72:12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.*
  - protecting the people of God;
  - rescuing the saints from the oppressor.
 

*Judges 5:11 They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the LORD go down to the gates.*

*1 Samuel 12:7 Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.*

*Exodus 9:27 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.*
  - delivering people from sin, and from bondage to the devil.

*Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*

*Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

12. Righteousness is closely connected with showing mercy to the poor.

- *Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*
- *2 Corinthians 9:9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)*

13. Righteousness is closely associated with salvation.

- *Isaiah 45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.*
- *Isaiah 46:13 I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.*
- *Isaiah 51:5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.*

14. God declares righteous those who have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This righteousness is based on the redemption wrought by Christ.

- *Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

15. The righteousness of Christ, given to all who believe includes the Old Testament saints as well, as God the Father anticipated the death of His Son. Therefore, He passed over sins rather than visiting people in wrath.

- *Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*