

# RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness means: *“the quality of being morally upright: without guilt or sin, being just or rightful.”*

## ...Righteousness and Faith

No one can gain righteousness by personal achievement, no matter how noble, godly, sacrificial, or diligent their efforts.

**Romans 10:1-3** (niv) *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own (based on law), they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

**Romans 1:16-17** (niv) *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

### 1. Clear teaching of the gospel

It is *“in the gospel”*, says Paul, that *“the righteousness from God is revealed.”*

We are to uphold and teach that righteousness is a gift from God and it is not because of any works-based righteousness performed by us!

### 2. Clear faith in the gospel

There is no other way to be made righteous before God except by faith; hence the latter part of **Romans 1:17** can be translated: *“Those who are made righteous through faith shall live!”*

## ...Righteousness and God's Throne

**Hebrews 4:16** (nkjv) *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Only righteous men and women have access to the throne of God; no sinner can approach it.

Faith has nothing to do with how long you have managed to **stay** “good”, nor with how “good” you **feel**, but only with how well you **believe** God's promise!

## ...Righteousness is found in Christ

**2 Corinthians 5:21** (nkjv) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Through the **first** Adam we were made **unrighteousness**; but now through the **last** Adam we are made **righteous**.

### **Romans 5:15-17**

Growing in our understanding of **righteousness** may not come quickly, nor even easily, but we need to persevere by reading and understanding the gospels.

Some refuse to believe the gospel and accept the gift. Like the Jews of old, they prefer to cling to their own righteousness.

### **Romans 10:1-4**

No one can approach God with any kind of personal righteousness, but only with His own righteousness, received as a gift by faith.

**Hebrews 4:16** (nkjv) *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

When it comes to righteousness we still face two problems:

## ...The problem of judicial guilt

We still sin, even though we have been made righteous with God.

But in our darkest moments of failure, the gospel calls us to turn back to Christ, repent, confess our wrongdoing, and at once hear again the pronouncement that we are the righteousness of God in Christ.

## ...The problem of inadequate strength

Jesus' righteousness is an inexhaustible deposit, into which we are invited by grace to tap daily, and to find access to all the resources of heaven.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**(niv) *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*