

God's Righteousness

(Sunday Sermon - Aug 06, 2023)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drD1tw0v8Wc>

Promise Verse: God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - *2 Corinthians 5:21*

Four kinds of Righteousness:

- ❖ **My Righteousness: (Psalm 112:3)** Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.
- ❖ **Righteousness by Faith: (Gen 15:6)** Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
 - It was so with Noah, Abel, Phinehas.
 - It shall be done according to your faith.
- ❖ **Righteousness by the Law: (Deu 6:25)** And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.
- ❖ **God's Righteousness: (2 Corinthians 5:21)** God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Definition of Righteousness: Many of us have the wrong definition of righteousness. We have set up things to do to be righteous before God. i.e., A pastor told me. He is a man of **prayer** with sincerity. When pastors get together for prayer, his voice will **stand out**. The way he would describe the **attributes** of God. But he had traces of sugar readings. He had sick sensations and could not get up early in the morning and pray. There were times I got sick and could not get up early in the morning.

We are not righteous because we do right. We became righteous because of what **Jesus** did for us at the **cross**. **Righteousness** is not based on our right doing. It is entirely based on **Jesus' right doing**.

"But Pastor. Rufus, even though I am a Christian, I **fail** from God's standards. When I am on the road somebody comes in between and I lose my temper and behave badly. I got angry with my wife and children. **Why should God be with me when I fail? Don't you know God is holy?**

Great Question: (Exo 12:7 NIV) Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the

lamb. The Israelites in the houses were oppressed people, bitter towards the task masters. There were idolaters, wicked people. Moses had seen an Egyptian being unfair to his brother Israelite. He killed the Egyptian who did this.

Such **imperfect** people were in the houses. The sign of security and **salvation** is the **blood**. ([Exo 12:13 NIV](#)) The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will **pass** over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. It was not the Israelites' perfection that protected but the blood of the Passover lamb that **protected** their lives.

Christ- our Passover Lamb:

([1 Corinthians 5:7 NIV](#)) Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch--as you really are. For **Christ**, our Passover **lamb**, has been sacrificed. **Apply** the Blood of Jesus daily over your life, upon your husband, wife and children, upon the church families and individuals. I apply the blood of Jesus upon the city of Chennai.

God does not **bless** you as a new covenant believer by your perfect conduct. He blesses you and me because of the **sinless blood** of the Lamb of God.

- Song: *Kutramilla yesuvin ratham jeyam"*.

God's **holiness** is for you. His **righteousness** is for you. Jesus' **obedience** is for you. Because of Jesus' Blood, God's unmerited favour (**grace**) is given to you. No disease, gossip, weapon formed **against** you can successfully come against you.

God does not speak bad about you. i.e How can you keep your tongue good? When you go home and be with family you could be **tempted** to talk **ill** about others at the dining table. In a family, the husband **hated** the wife. The husband went into **affairs** outside the family. The **grandparents** raised the children. The children were longing for their parents' love. I see the children **mentally** affected.

In another family, the husband hated the wife and the in-laws. The wife is **submissive**, loving, and **obedient**. He continued his hatred for the in-laws and spoke words of hatred to the children. The children did not get love from the

father and mother. The young man is **mentally affected**. Speak good things on the dining table. Look at the good in other people. If you were to speak about the wrongs of someone, **pray** for them.

Well Pastor. Rufus, Jesus is with some people because they do a lot of **good**. I don't do much good. How can He be with me? Some people believe that God is with me because I have given time to volunteer in the church. **God** is with you not based on what you have done or not done. This kind of thinking keeps the focus on you. He is with you by **relationship**, not rules.

Christ the Saviour

A native of interior **China** wanted to become a Christian but couldn't understand how Christianity was **superior** to Confucianism and Buddhism. One morning he came to the missionary in a happy mood saying, "I **dreamed** last night, and now I understand. I dreamed I had fallen into a deep pit where I lay **helpless** and despairing. **Confucius** came and said, 'Let me give you advice, my friend; if you get out of your trouble, never get in again.' Buddha came and said, 'If you can climb up to where I can reach you, I will **help** you.' Then **Christ** came. He climbed down into the pit and carried me out." It takes the **Savior** of man to do that. Only a Saviour would stoop so low as to save a sinful soul like yours and mine.

(Mat 26:40-41 NIV) Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for **one hour**?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

You should pray and fast. **Peter** could not keep up the standards. He fell into **temptation**. You could say it has been days and a month since I prayed and read the **Bible**. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Jesus was **gracious** to pick up Peter and make him a **prayer warrior**. So will He be with you. The presence of Jesus is with you as God's gift to you. You **cannot earn** or deserve His favour. He will **never leave** you nor **forsake** you.

"But Pastor, Rufus when I fail, doesn't Jesus leave me?"

No. Jesus is by your side to encourage and keep you. ([Psalm 37:23 KJV-BRG](#))
The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

([Psalm 37:24 KJV-BRG](#)) Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand. Even your so-called **friends** may leave you and go but Jesus sticks with you as an **unceasing friend**.

When you are up, He is with you, He is **with** you. When you are **down**, He is with you. When you are doing right, He is with you, even when you have failed, He is still with you.

([Heb 13:5 NIV](#)) Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; **never** will I forsake you." In Greek it is given as a **double negative**. I will '**never never**' leave you.

Promises: God has given so many **promises** in the Bible. There are around **9000** promises in the Bible. People still are afraid and lose faith in the Lord. There are many people who worry and **anxious** about the things in your life. When we say God has given His promises. The question is "Does it apply to me?"

Does **God care** about my husband hating and treating me badly? Sometimes your spouse has said "If you had died, life would have been better for me." Your spouse did not give breath in your nostrils, and they can't take it from you. It is **God** who gave life and has **faith** He has kept you alive and you are **living** for **Him**. You wonder "Is God interested in the financial problems I am going through? He has so many problems to care for. Know that God is a personal God. He is interested in you. ([1Pe 5:7 NIV](#)) **Cast** all your anxiety on him because he **cares** for you.

How do you feel when I enquire about you? It takes time. Why do we enquire? Can I be of help to you? I can pray for you. I can counsel you from the

word of God. I have undergone such things in my life. When you have come for prayer, know God is enquiring about you and what you are undergoing. God is enquiring how you are doing? What is bothering you, worrying you?

Carrying your worries, stresses, and daily **struggles** by **yourself** shows that you have not trusted God fully with your life. It takes **humility**, however, to recognize that God cares, to admit your **need**, and to let others in God's family help you. Blessed are the **poor** in **Spirit**. Sometimes we think that struggles caused by our own sin and foolishness are not **God's concern**. But when we turn to God in **repentance**, he will bear the weight even of those struggles. Letting **God** have your anxieties calls for action, not passivity. Don't submit to circumstances but to the Lord, who **controls** circumstances.

Bitter and Bad Words to Wives: Some women who meet with me say "My husband is scolding me with unparliamentary and even foul language." When I hear them, I am so downhearted. I don't want to live, pastor. I am living for the children. He even scolds the children with abuse.

I have faced such abusive words. Few years back a man called me "dog". This is the word I call the devil. I knew who was speaking through him. Because he spoke, did God get away from me? No and no way.

Hebrews 13:5 (AMP)

5 I will not in any way fail you *nor* give you up *nor* leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless *nor* forsake *nor* let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

To Jesus: (John 8:40) As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.

(John 8:41) You are doing the works of your own father." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

They meant **Jesus** was born out of wedlock to be a bastard.

Jesus did not give them an answer for this. He was **delighted** in what the Father called Him.

(**Mat 3:17**) And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Heaven's Voice:

1. (**John 1:12**) Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
2. (**Isa 49:15**) “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion for the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!
3. (**Isa 49:16**) See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

(**2 Corinthians 5:21**) God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the **righteousness** of God.

He made Him: We note that well. This was the work of God Himself! The Father and the Son (and the Spirit as well) were in perfect cooperation in the work on the cross. This means that the work of atonement on the cross was *the work of God*. If God did it, it is well done. I am not careful to defend an act of God: let the man who dares accuse his Maker think what he is at. If God himself provided the sacrifice, be sure that he has accepted it. (Spurgeon)

D. **That we might become the righteousness of God in Him:** Jesus *took* our sin, but *gave* us His **righteousness**. It is a tremendous exchange, all prompted by the love of God for us!

- I. Not only does the believer receive from God a right standing before him on the basis of faith in Jesus (**Philippians 3:9**), but here Paul says that in Christ the believer in some sense actually shares the righteousness that characterises God himself. (Harris)
- II. **The righteousness of God:** What a grand expression! He makes us righteous through the righteousness of Jesus; nay, not only makes us righteous, but *righteousness*; nay, that is not all, he makes us the righteousness *of God*; that is higher than the righteousness of Adam in the garden, it is more divinely perfect than angelic perfection. (Spurgeon)
- III. The righteousness which Adam had in the garden was perfect, but it was the righteousness of man: ours is the righteousness of God. (Spurgeon)

IV. This is the whole truth of justification stated simply: Our sins were on Jesus, and His righteousness is on us. And, As Christ was not made sin by any sin inherent in him, so neither are we made righteous by any righteousness inherent in us, but by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us. (Poole)

Christ the Way

On a dark and stormy night, a child was lost in the streets of a large city. A policeman found him crying in distress and gathering enough from his story to locate the home, gave him directions after this manner. "Just go down this street half a mile, turn and cross the big iron bridge, then turn to your right and follow the river down a little way, and you'll see where you are." The poor child, only half comprehending, chilled and bewildered by the storm, turned about blindly, when another voice spoke in a kindly tone, "Just come with me." The little hand was clasped in a stronger one, the corner of a warm coat was thrown over the shoulders of the shivering child, and the way home was made easy. The first man had told the way; the second man became the way. This is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ has been for us. From eternity He has told us that He is the Way. He has to become our Light also, to lead us to the Way.