

LESSON 8
Romans 1:17
10-23-2019

Romans 1:16 "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** (in the Gospel) **the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH** (Quote from Habakkuk 2:4)"

What is "... **the righteousness of God** (that) **is revealed** (in the Gospel)..."?

Psa 143:1, David prays in his desperate time of need, "**Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness!** [David believed in his heart (saving faith) that God Alone is perfectly faithful and perfectly righteous; and, that he needed God's Righteousness covering him for God to allow him in His presence, hear his cry for help and give to him the undeserved help he needed - this was David's plea for God's Grace - God giving him the help he did not deserve because of his sins]. **2 And do not enter into judgment with Your servant** [David was fully aware that he had much sin in his life (no righteousness of his own, required by his Holy God, to come into His presence and receive mercy and grace in his time of need); therefore, David knew in his heart that he deserved God's judgment rather than His help and deliverance. This was David's plea for God to have Mercy on him (God not giving him what he deserved - judgment for his sins), and to help in his time of need - Grace), **For in Your sight NO MAN LIVING IS RIGHTEOUS.**"

Man's unbelief before salvation is twofold - all born of Adam's seed are guilty of both:

FIRST, Not believing that God is Holy (without sin) - God therefore, not allowing anyone to come into His presence or enter heaven where He sits on His throne, if they are guilty of only one sin (sin being an act of

disobedience to God in thought, word or deed)! In **Genesis 1:26-27** we learn that - GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, WITHOUT SIN; AND, CREATED HIM WITH THE ABILITY TO LIVE WITHOUT SIN - THAT IS TO LIVE A PERFECTLY RIGHTEOUS LIFE, DUE TO BELIEVING (TRUSTING) HIM - BELIEVING EVERY WORD HE SPEAKS [Man, before sin, had the ability to trust and obey God thereby strengthening his perfect righteousness through his own obedience. He would have earned salvation by doing so. But Adam and Eve did not believe God - believe His Word. They proved their unbelief through their one act of disobedience]. If they had believed God - obeyed Him, they would have maintained the image of God in Whom they were created and proved to be true sons of God.

SECOND, Not believing that man is born with a sin nature in the flesh [born with a stony heart - a heart which is totally controlled by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (all the flesh); and therefore, a heart totally self centered instead of God centered - not able to put God above self; and not able to love God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength as God commands and demands. Because of his sin nature (the pride of life being part of the flesh), he refuses to believe that he is a horrible sinner in God's eyes [The Apostle Paul, after salvation and filled with the Holy Spirit, said in **Romans 7:18** "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; ..."; and 24 "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"]. In man's own eyes before salvation, he believes he is not that bad, measuring himself by himself, and definitely not deserving of God's judgments upon him; especially not deserving hell! His thoughts are, "God will surely accept me into His heaven as long as I live a decent and good life before Him (decent and good according to his own standards - believing that his good deeds makes him "righteous" in God's sight). But, God's Word teaches in Galatians 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." To earn heaven and have a righteousness of our own, we have to keep all the

Law without one act of disobedience in thought, word or deed. But, God's view of man is "... In God's sight NO MAN LIVING IS RIGHTEOUS ..." measuring man according to God's standards! Also, Romans 3:10 "... as it is written, 'THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.'" God looks at the motives of the heart in our doing good (righteous) deeds and not just the good that we do. If the motive is NOT to love God (Christ) with ALL our heart, mind, soul and strength; and NOT to lift Him up alone; and NOT to bring glory to Him alone - IT IS SIN! Our motives with the sin natures we are born with are, in all the good deeds we do - we do for self to be accepted by God, or to be lifted up, or to look good and thought highly of before God and/or man, etc. - self centered and not God centered. It is not out of pure sincere love to God, to glorify Him alone, but to glorify self before God and/or man. We need to ask God to show us what our true motives are - why we do good (righteous) deeds. **Therefore, we are totally without any righteousness of our own in God's sight and cannot have communion with God; or enter heaven where God lives (after death), by trusting in anything we do or don't do - because we have a multitude of sins we have committed, are committing and will commit, according to God's standards - if we are truly honest with ourselves!!!** Because of God's Holiness and His demands and necessity for us to be holy like Him producing acts of righteousness, we need a perfect, alien (not our own) righteousness from GOD ALONE to have communion with Him and to live in His presence now and in heaven when this life is over. A person can be born with a personality that is kind, caring, thoughtful of others, giving to the poor or those in need, etc. - doing many "righteous" deeds; but this is not the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is natural characteristics we were born with and part of our human personality - human traits. It does not prove we are born again and trusting in Christ and His perfect righteousness alone nor is it evidence to others that we are born again, having the Holy Spirit in us. **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is God's very character, righteousness,**

traits and fruit we become partakers of by faith when/after we are born again - having the Holy Spirit put in us by Christ at the moment He saves us. It is the Holy Spirit's Fruit not ours. (Christ's Divine Nature - 2 Peter 1:4 "**For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, ...**")!!! Only God can see the heart and know whether the good deeds we do outwardly are motivated by self centered reasons and are only personality (human) traits we were born with, or, if it is Holy Spirit fruit producing good (righteous) deeds in and through us by faith due to the motivating and empowering of the Holy Spirit as we become partakers of His Divine Nature Living in us.

"... The righteousness of God (that) is revealed (in the Gospel)..." IS THE PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST (God/Man) - an alien righteousness not our own - the ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT CAN PRESENT US BLAMELESS (Perfectly Righteous) IN HIS PRESENCE, Jude 1:24 "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory BLAMELESS with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." - Christ's sinless birth, Luke 1:35 "The angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy (perfect righteousness) Child shall be called the Son of God.'" ; Christ's sinless life throughout all His years living on earth, Heb 4:14 "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN."; Christ's sinless death, Luke 23:39 "One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!' 40 But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same

sentence of condemnation? 41 "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but THIS MAN HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG." His sinless sacrifice for the sins of those who would believe on Him, 2 Corinthians 5:21 "He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus Christ) WHO KNEW NO SIN to be sin on our behalf (those who would believe on Him), so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."; The sinless Savior's sacrifice which paid our sin debt in full thereby satisfying God the Father's perfect Justice and His fullness of wrath against our sins, Isaiah 53:10 "But the LORD (God the Father) was pleased To crush Him (Jesus Christ), putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. 11 As a result of the anguish of His (Christ's) soul, He (God the Father) will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant (Christ), will justify the many (Impute His Perfect Righteousness to those who put their faith in Him alone, making them perfectly righteous in God the Father's sight), As He will bear their iniquities (receive the fullness of God's wrath we deserved due to our sins)." Listen to the Apostle Paul, Philippians 3:8 "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH COMES FROM GOD ON the BASIS OF FAITH," This alien Perfect Righteousness of Christ is received by Faith Alone in Christ Alone!!! Therefore, Paul says, Romans 1:17 "For in it (in the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH'" King David's alien righteousness in Psalm 143:1 was his believing (FAITH) in God's Perfect Faithfulness and God's Perfect Righteousness to deliver him, keep him and make him acceptable in God's sight. "Answer me in

Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness!" David knew he had no righteousness of his own in God's sight to bring him into God's presence; BUT THAT IT WAS ONLY GOD'S PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS COVERING HIM BY FAITH THAT WOULD MAKE HIM ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT TO HELP HIM, DELIVER HIM, KEEP HIM AND BLESS HIM WITH HIS PRESENCE! "... 'BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH'!!!

We need to be like the tax collector and not like the Pharisee:

Luke 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, THE SINNER!' 14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Never be unbelieving, but believing (Faith), that:

FIRST, GOD IS HOLY AND WILL NOT ALLOW SIN IN HIS PRESENCE! Will not allow us in heaven without the Perfect Righteous of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ clothing us.

SECOND, I AM A HORRIBLE SINNER IN GOD'S SIGHT AND NEED CHRIST'S PERFECT RIGHTEOUS COVERING ME - THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES ONLY THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE!!!.

"... as it is written, 'BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.'