

“THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD”

INTRODUCTION

- I. The word “righteousness” is found MANY times in the New Testament.
 - A. The word “right” (in “righteousness”) simply means “correct”, but with the n-e-s-s added, it means the STATE of being right, or “righteous.”
 - B. The word “righteousness” is found 35 times in the book of Romans, about a third of the times in ALL the New Testament.
 1. Here, Paul not ONLY refers to GOD, but to those who have attained this quality, some way.
 2. Romans tells us HOW it is attained.
- II. This lesson shall be a study of the 3 major ways the word “righteousness” applies to **GOD**.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, GOD’S CHARACTER AND NATURE ARE RIGHTEOUS.

- A. God is sinless, holy, pure and blameless, in His CHARACTER, and makes no mistakes.
Exo. 3:5; Psa. 11:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8; Tit. 1:2
- B. God is perfect in all His WAYS. Rev. 15:3; Psa. 18:30A; Isa. 55:8-9
- C. God is perfect and just in His JUDGMENT. Gen. 18:25
 1. In the **natural** world, judgment is often made to give death to certain weeds and plants that hinder the growth of flowers and vegetables.
 2. In the **physical** world, the choice of death is often made by bad decisions. Deut. 30:19; Ezek. 18: 31-32; 33:11
 - a. In God’s dealings with man, He gives warnings and consequences for bad decisions.
 - b. Men often make decisions that bring death upon themselves.
 - 1) In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve made the choice of death. Gen. 2:16-17
 - 2) In Noah’s day, the wicked made the choice to die.
 - 3) In the days of Lot, the wicked made the choice to die.
 3. In the **spiritual** world, many choose death instead of life.
 - a. God doesn’t want people to die (spiritually or physically), but they bring it on themselves by the decisions they make.
 - b. He warns that sin brings death. Gen. 9:6; Jas. 1:14-15
 4. In the **final judgment** of the world, God’s judgment will be PERFECT and JUST.
 - a. There is a WAR between God and Satan, for the souls of mankind.
 - 1) Satan is responsible for sin, and God wants to bring forgiveness of sin.
 - 2) Death is the result of sin, when man chooses to engage in it, but God offers spiritual life to those who choose to accept it and meet His conditions.
 - b. In the final day, God’s judgment will be just and fair, as the righteous are blessed and the wicked are defeated. Gen. 18:25; 1 Cor. 15:25-26; 2 Thess. 1:5-6
 - 1) God would be unfair if He blessed the wicked, and condemned the righteous.
 - 2) God would be unjust if He blessed the wicked, allowing them to benefit by their sin, or it would be unjust for God to condemn everyone, including the good of the earth.

II. 2nd, GOD'S SIDE OF THE PLAN FOR MAN'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. This plan's basis (the death of the Savior) was revealed to Satan, His enemy, from the time of man's fall. Gen. 3:15
1. God's **promise** was made through Abraham, from whom the Savior was to descend. (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:16)
 2. God's **law** of Moses was to keep the people intact until the time for the Savior to come. Gal. 3:19
 3. This plan was **revealed** BY the Savior Himself, and the inspired apostles who spoke and recorded it for the world. Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
 4. This plan also involved the **church** the Savior would build. Acts 2:47; Eph. 3:10
- B. This all is GOD'S PLAN for MAN'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, or SALVATION. Rom. 10:1-5

III. 3rd, MAN'S SIDE OF THE PLAN FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. Paul said it is for "every one" that "believeth." Rom. 10:4
- B. This belief is in the GOSPEL or FAITH that must be OBEYED. Rom. 1:5, 16; 6:17
1. The FACTS of the gospel include the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:1-4
 2. Man responds to the plan by believing that Jesus is God's Son, repenting of sins, and being immersed in water to enjoy that salvation, or "righteousness." Acts 2:26-38

CONCLUSION

- I. This "righteousness" enjoyed is well summed up in Rom. 3:22-26.
- A. 1st, it involves "the faith" (or the gospel). v. 22
1. It is for "**all**" who have sinned. v. 23
 2. It involves the "**grace**" of God. v. 24
 3. It also involves the "**blood**" of Christ. v. 25
- B. 2nd, it demonstrates the justice or "**righteousness**" of GOD. v. 26
- II. This "righteousness" of God is available to you right now, if you want it.

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