

Lesson 4
Righteousness

I. What is Righteousness?

- Right-standing with God; being justified (righteous) in God's eyes.
- *Your righteousness must equal God's righteousness for God to be able to accept you!*

II. The Problem

- A. Rom. 3:10,12 – NO ONE is righteous, NO ONE is good
- B. Rom. 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Rom. 3:23 – Every person has inherited a sin nature from Adam because of Adam's sin. Because everyone is born with a sin nature, everyone has sinned. The inherited sin nature produced sinful actions. Sinful actions didn't produce the sin nature.
- C. Because of this sin nature, everyone is out of right-standing with God. Our greatest need is to be in right-standing with God or to be righteous in God's eyes.
- D. Because everyone is born corrupt with a sin nature, even our good deeds are unacceptable (tainted) in the eyes of God. Therefore, they are not good enough to make us justified or righteous in His sight. Is. 64:6.

III. The Provision

- A. Blood sacrifice makes atonement or reconciliation – Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22; Ex. 12:5
 - Since everyone is tainted and corrupted with a sin nature, man's blood is useless in trying to make atonement.
 - Since an animal has less worth in the eyes of God than a human, the blood of bulls and goats doesn't actually take away sins. Heb. 10:4.
- B. Because God loved us, God took upon Himself human flesh (without sin) and became The Man and shed His blood in order to take away our sin nature (sin).
Eph. 2:4 (Amp); Jn. 1:1, 14, 29; Heb. 9:12, 14-15, 26, 10:14;
1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Pt. 1:18-19; 1 Jn. 3:5; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

IV. Receiving Righteousness (the Reconciliation)

- A. Not through the Law or by our own efforts.
Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:11; Titus 3:5; Phil. 3:9
1. Why did God give the Law if we are not justified by keeping the law?
 - a. To remove our deception about our true condition apart from Christ's redeeming work. Rom. 7:7; Rom. 3:19-20
 - b. To bring us to Christ – Gal. 3:19-25
 - c. The law made nothing perfect only Christ's sacrifice makes perfect. Heb. 7:18-19; 10:10,14
- B. Receive Righteousness and Justification as a GIFT by Grace through Faith
1. We are blessed because God imputes His very own righteousness to us apart from our own works.
Rom. 3:21-26; 4:1-8; 20-25
 2. Impute – an accounting term that means to credit to your account. Has nothing to do with WHO actually made the deposit but whether there is something credited or imputed to or deducted from your account.
 3. Just as you were born naturally (fleshly) with a sin nature because of what Adam did, you likewise were born again spiritually with God's very own righteous nature because of what Jesus did.
Rom. 5:14-20
- Righteousness is a gift that can only be received by God's grace.
Rom. 5:17
 - **In Christ, your righteousness equals God's righteousness, because He gave you His very own righteousness! Therefore God accepts you in the Beloved. Eph. 1:6**
Hallelujah!