

# Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

## Lesson 9. Justification / Righteousness

5/19/2019

### Introduction

#### I. Justification

- A. The Greek word (dikaiosune) is the same for “justification” and “righteousness.”  
Justification = righteousness
  
- B. Definition:  
To be justified is to be declared righteous.  
To be right before God. Free from guilt or wrong.
  
- C. The need for justification / righteousness:  
Review the need for salvation. (holiness of God, death, depravity, inability)

#### II. The Scope of Righteousness

- A. God is righteous.
  - B. The human race is not righteous.  
“There is none righteous” (compare self-righteousness)
  - C. Jesus Christ is righteous.
  - D. Believers, through faith, are given Christ’s righteousness.
  - E. Believers are to pursue righteousness in daily life.
  - F. Believers will experience absolute righteousness for all eternity. (Future glory)
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### Theme Study: Righteousness in Pauline Epistles

#### I. God’s Righteousness is absolute. (Deuteronomy 32:4)

📖 2 Corinthians 9:9; Romans 2:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:5, 6

#### II. People pursue self-righteousness apart from God. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

📖 Romans 10:3 *“For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”*

##### A. How not to obtain righteousness:

📖 Not by keeping the Law. Romans 3:20; 9:30-31; 10:3ff; Galatians 3:11; 2:21; 3:21

📖 Not justified by works. Romans 4:2

📖 Titus 3:5 *“Not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness”*

##### B. Paul’s view of his own righteousness:

📖 Philippians 3:6-9

### III. Imputed Righteousness is given to those who have believed in Jesus Christ.

- The righteousness of Jesus is credited (imputed) to all who through faith receive Him as Savior.
  
- A. The word for imputation (or to reckon) is found 11 times in **Romans 4**.  
From this passage we learn that:
  1. Righteousness is bestowed upon you (reckoned or imputed). It is not earned or merited. (Romans 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24)
  2. Righteousness is associated with faith. (:3, 5, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 22, 24)
  3. Righteousness is not gained by ritual or through keeping the law. (:10,11, 13, 14, 16)
  4. Righteousness is according to grace. (:16)
  5. Righteousness is associated with Jesus Christ. (:25)
  
- B. Other Scripture related to the righteousness of Jesus given to believers:
  1. The righteousness of God is revealed through the gospel
    - 📖 Romans 1:16-17 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, ... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous shall live by faith.’”*
  
  2. How is God’s righteousness obtained?  
Make observations from the following passages...
    - 📖 Galatians 2:16, 17; 3:6, 8, 11, 24
  
    - 📖 Romans 3:21-26, 28, 30
  
    - 📖 Romans 5:1, 9, 17, 21
  
    - 📖 Romans 8:33
  
    - 📖 Romans 10:4, 6, 10
  
    - 📖 Titus 3:7
  
- C. The righteousness of God (or Christ) is imputed to believers in Jesus Christ.
  - 📖 2 Corinthians 5:21 *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
  
  - 📖 1 Corinthians 1:30 *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption,”*
  
- D. As a result of imputed righteousness, what is the believer’s standing before God?
  - 📖 Romans 8:30; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 8:10

#### IV. Christians are to live in righteousness each day.

What do the following verses tell us about righteousness in our daily life?

- A. Pursue righteousness. 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 3:16
- B. Present yourselves as instruments of righteousness. Romans 6:13, 16, 18, 19, 20
- C. Produce the fruit of righteousness. Philippians 1:11; 2 Corinthians 9:10; Ephesians 5:9
- D. Have behavior that reflects righteous or right behavior. Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 1:7; Philippians 4:8
- E. Have no partnership with lawlessness. 2 Corinthians 6:14
- F. Stand firm in righteousness. Ephesians 6:14  
Contrast 2 Corinthians 11:15
- G. How do the following give us motivation to live rightly each day?
  -  Galatians 5:5 (the hope of righteousness)
  -  2 Timothy 4:8 (the crown of righteousness)

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➤ **Review four aspects of righteousness taught in the Pauline Epistles.**

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#### **James 2:14-26**

This passage is often used by those who believe we are saved by works.

What kind of righteousness is indicated in this passage?

## God is Righteous

Deuteronomy 32:4

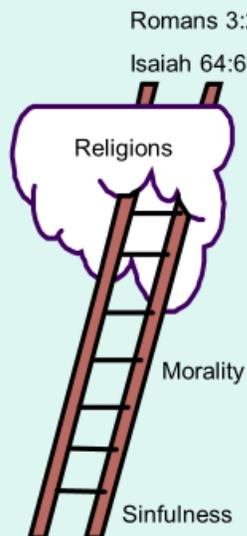
“The Rock! His work is perfect,  
for all His ways are just;  
a God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
righteous and upright is He.”

## Justification / Righteousness

- ❖ To be right before God
  - ❖ Free from guilt or wrong
- To be justified is to be declared righteous,  
free from guilt or wrong before God.

## Self-righteousness

### God is Righteous      Deuteronomy 32:4



### Self-righteousness

(Human Good)

“For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.” (2 Corinthians 10:12)

“For not knowing about God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.” (Romans 10:3)

## Imputed Righteousness

### God's Righteousness

#### Imputed Righteousness

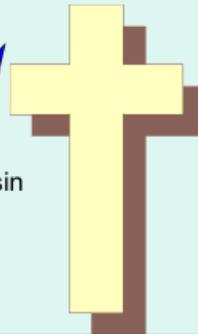
(The Righteousness of Jesus Christ)

"God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

...that I may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own... but that which is through faith in Christ Jesus, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith." (Philippians 3:9)

"The righteousness of God has been manifested, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; ...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus;" (Romans 3:21-24)



## The Fruit of Righteousness

### God's Righteousness

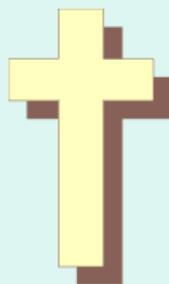
Romans 3:23

Isaiah 64:6

Self-righteousness  
(Human Good)



Imputed Righteousness



#### Fruit of Righteousness

Ephesians 2:10 "good works"



"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:24)

"Present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." (Romans 6:13)

"Pursue righteousness" (1 Timothy 6:11)