



The Righteousness of God

ROMANS 3:9-31

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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." vv. 16-17

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

righteousness *Being perfect in character and action; purely good, just and true*

An attribute of God - He is the standard (Ps 145:17; Matt 6:33)

A requirement of God - for right relationship (Dan 9:3-19; Rom 6:23)

A demonstration of God - in the gospel (Is 61:11; 2 Cor 5:21)

The charge against humanity: _____ (vv. 9-18)

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God." vv. 10-11

The charge applies to everyone.

Because everyone is under sin.

The verdict of the Judge: _____ (vv. 19-20)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. v. 19

Unrighteousness earns the wrath of God. (v. 19)

The law cannot save us from our guilt. (v. 20)

The sentence: _____ (vv. 21-26)

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. vv. 23-25a

God has revealed Jesus to be the object of faith. (vv. 21-22)

Jesus has paid the debt that we owe. (vv. 24-25a, 6:23)

God justifies the unrighteous in a righteous way. (vv. 25b-26)

A CLOSING ARGUMENT

1 Don't leave room for _____ . (vv. 27-28; Eph 2:8-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31)

2 Embrace your new _____ . (vv. 29-30; Gal 3:23-29)

3 Live by _____ in Jesus alone. (v. 31; Rom 1:16-17; Phil 3:7-10)

ROAD TO REDEMPTION

DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 3:9-31. This sermon outline is set up as a court case, and all humanity is declared guilty before a righteous, holy God. What parts of the sermon were especially helpful for you?

2. What do you think of when you hear the word *justification*? What does it mean to be *justified by faith*?

3. Why is the imputed righteousness of Christ necessary for salvation? What are the results of the imputation of His righteousness to us?

4. How might your life be different if you had only the law to pursue in order to become righteous? What does it mean to you to know you are justified by faith?

5. In what ways do Christians still attempt to attain righteousness by behaving? Why is it difficult to accept that righteousness comes merely by believing?

6. How do you need to work on putting your faith in Christ alone? Be specific. Go back and mark the verse that is most encouraging to you, and memorize it.

To close your study in prayer, use this spiritual meditation as a guide.

O God of grace, Thou hast imputed my sin to my substitute, and hast imputed His righteousness to my soul, clothing me with a bridegroom's robe, decking me with jewels of holiness. But in my Christian walk I am still in rags; my best prayers are stained with sin; my penitential tears are so much impurity; my confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin; my receiving the Spirit is tainted with selfishness.

I need to repent of my repentance; I need my tears to be washed; I have no robe to bring to cover my sins, no loom to weave my own righteousness; I am always standing clothed in filthy garments, and by grace am always receiving change of raiment, for thou dost always justify the ungodly.

I am always going into the far country, and always returning home as a prodigal, always saying, *Father, forgive me*, and Thou art always bringing forth the best robe.

Every morning let me wear it, every evening return in it, go out to the day's work in it, be married in it, be bound in death in it, stand before the great white throne in it, enter heaven in it shining as the sun.

Grant me never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, the exceeding wonder of grace.

From *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, edited by Arthur Bennett

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
- "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."*

"Forgiveness on the part of God always has a judicial basis, not an emotional basis, and represents an attitude of God based upon the satisfaction of His righteousness in some way."

JOHN WALVOORD

"How can God declare righteous those who in fact are not so? Where is there any hope? Can sinful people ever obtain a favorable verdict from this Judge? Justification, Paul clearly stated, does not come by human effort. 'By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight' (Rom 3:20). If human effort cannot attain justification, the only other possibility is that God provides it."

EARL RADMACHER

"Self-justification comes naturally to those who fear their deeds being exposed, but at least such persons know in their hearts that they are guilty. The situation is much more serious when we believe our own lies. 'If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us' (1 Jn 1:8, 10)."

ROBERT PYNE

"Do not confuse *justification* and *sanctification*. Sanctification is the process whereby God makes the believer more and more like Christ. Sanctification may change from day to day. Justification never changes. When the sinner trusts Christ, God declares him righteous, and that declaration will never be repealed."

WARREN WIERSBE

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

AVENEW From dating and engaged couples to newly married, AVENEW is where you will receive a biblical framework of marriage and learn more about walking out God's design and purpose for you in marriage. Registration is now open for the fall! Sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew.

DISASTER RELIEF Our heart here at Christ Chapel is to proactively respond when disaster strikes — whether in our own neighborhoods or on the other side of the world. It's an opportunity to love, support and encourage others, and we'd love to have you join us. Learn more about how you can volunteer in our Disaster Relief ministry by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/local.

FORGIVEN AND FREE We all have stories that come from living in a hurting world. If abortion has been a part of your story, it can be difficult living in another chapter when there is still pain from a previous one. Our heart is to provide a space to move from shame to freedom because of Jesus' love and grace! We invite you to step into a new chapter of your story, but not alone — with Jesus' power and a group of other women pursuing restoration together. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/forgiven.

CHECK OUT THE EMBARK CLASS Embark is our new "get to know Christ Chapel" class — great for anyone who wants to go deeper with us or is considering membership. Whether you've been here a few weeks or a few decades, Embark will help you learn more about Christ Chapel, find your best next step and meet staff. Learn more today at www.ccbcfamily.org/embark.

DIGITAL RESOURCES Throughout the week, grow in faith and encourage others to do the same! Check out Christ Chapel's digital resources by visiting our social media channels, YouTube, website and brand-new app! Each resource comes with content that helps all of us continue to Be disciples, Make disciples and Reach out to more of the 800,000 for God's glory, the good of the community and for our faith to increase in Jesus!

PARENT DEDICATION Join us for a special event to honor the gift God has given you, dedicating yourself to raise your child to know and love God. Parent Dedication will be on Sunday, Aug. 25. Register today and learn more about being a part at: www.ccbcfamily.org/dedication.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.