



THEME: THE BENEFITS OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Bible Study 2: A Righteousness by Faith!!

INTRODUCTION As Christians who worship the One True God we can be assured that the Lord is righteous both in His nature and in His actions. This means that God is perfect in ALL His ways and is without evil and sin. This however creates a real problem for us as human beings. Here we have a perfect God who does not sin. A God who is pure, holy and right in all His ways. A God who hates evil and will not look upon sin. The problem is that we are sinners who do things that are wrong and can act in very selfish and evil ways.

DISCUSS – How do you think sin and selfishness affects a human beings relationship with God?

If you had to explain what you have been saved from to what you have been saved to, what would you say?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS– Romans 1 v 18 – 32, Romans 3 v 9 – 23 Ephesians 2 v 1 – 3

TEACHING SLOT – All have sinned

At the heart of the problem that we have as people today is that we are born into a world, a society, into a life that is affected and saturated by the sin of Adam. This selfishness, godlessness and sin that we have in our lives is an abomination in the eyes of a pure God. The affect of this sin is that it has destroyed our relationship with God and denies us the life and blessings that God longs to pour into our lives. In actual fact in the courtroom of God's presence in the flesh everyone of us stands condemned. **You may feel a fairly good person, but if you only sin three times a day, that becomes 21 sins a week, over a 1000 in a year, more then 70,000 in a lifetime! Imagine going into the courtroom of God with 70,000 previous convictions!!!** The true fact of those sins is that each one is a death sentence not only to our relationship with God, but also to our soul. In Romans Paul makes it clear that everyone of us whatever our background has done wrong and sinned against God. Scripture declares we are a sinner by nature – a sinner by choice - and a sinner by practice. **READ Romans 3 v 9 – 18 & v 23 AGAIN.**

This is the problem we have when it comes to a right standing before God. On our own, with our own actions ALL of us fail and fall into unrighteousness. Here we have a Righteous God – an unrighteous people – who become a broken people under judgement with no way back to the Father. This is the state of humanity was in before Jesus came into the world. A place where we cannot earn salvation, cannot inherit it, cannot be good enough to claim it for ourselves. It is because of this lostness that we no longer can enjoy and experience the blessings and benefits of a righteous life.

DISCUSS – Do you see people as lost who you meet with each day?

What ways do you think people try to get back into a right relationship with God?

Why do you think people do these things to earn their way into heaven?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS– Romans 3 v 21 – 31 Romans 4 v 16 – 25 Ephesians 2 v 4 – 10

TEACHING SLOT – A Righteousness by faith.

Here is the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ for our lives. Paul makes it clear that a righteousness from God has been revealed to us. It is a righteousness that comes into our lives as a direct and powerful initiative of God's love and grace. This work of God makes us right, justified in the eyes of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the glorious gospel of a **“righteousness by faith.”**

Here is the wonderful truth of the salvation of Jesus in our lives. God has established a righteousness not dependant on rituals or good works.... Not dependant on any goodness of our own, not dependant on religious duty. This rightness is given / placed **both OVER and IN** our lives as we put our trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus from the cross. Here is the awesome truth of the Gospel we have a righteousness placed **ON OUR LIVES** when we repent of our sin and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. As Romans 4 verse 24 says, by faith God has imputed a righteousness to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus from the dead, who was delivered up for our offences and was raised because of our justification.

This truth declares that we may not be good enough for Jesus, BUT Jesus is good enough for us to become for us a righteousness from God.

Faith in the Lord Jesus is the key that unlocks the door of salvation. A salvation that rescues us from sin, rescues us from death, removed once and for all the judgement and punishment of God from our lives and opens up the doors of God's blessing.

DISCUSS – When God has done so much for us to see us enter into a righteous position before Him why do you think so many Christians struggle with a sense of assurance?

TEACHING SLOT – Righteous through the blood of Jesus.

It is a true act of grace / undeserved favour that God has given us this salvation. It is the Lord who took the initiative both in sending His Son and opening our hearts by His Holy Spirit that we might discover the truth. Verse 25 of Romans 3 makes it clear His blood is an atoning sacrifice for our sins. A new relationship with God is needed..... A new nature was needed... because we were enslaved to Satan and a sinful world. It is the death of Jesus the BLOOD of Jesus that sets us free from these things.

The blood of Jesus satisfies God's demand for justice to be fulfilled. It is the blood that covers over and dissolves our sins and guilt so that God wrath and judgement is turned away from us .. “God has set forth as a propitiation by His blood, (How?) THROUGH FAITH, to demonstrate (what?) HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

It is the power of the blood of Jesus that pays the debt of sin, opens up the prison of sin and death and makes it possible for us to be spiritual born again. Jesus becomes a sacrificial offering that takes our sin and guilt – our punishment upon Himself - as He dies on the cross all of the punishment and wrath of God is directed at Jesus. He becomes the scapegoat so that our sin, our guilt, our pride is paid for. In every sense Jesus takes our place in the courtroom, is condemned for our sin and takes upon Himself our punishment. Therefore when we stand before the Lord we stand before Him as righteous – For our sin has been removed – our offences paid for and our punishment bore by another. Through faith we stand before Him clean, pure and in a right relationship with Him. We are the righteousness of God at work in the world, for through faith in the blood of Jesus we have been given a righteousness from God.