

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ITS EFFECT

(Ruatangata CF – 22/1/89 EKB)

1. **God is the Righteous God.**

Ps 145:17 “The Lord is righteous in all His ways....”

Everything about God and what He does is **right, good**, true, just, perfect and there is **no sin, evil, error or wickedness** in God.

2. Man was created in perfect righteousness and lived in full fellowship with God, **but as a result of the “Fall”**, (*Gen 3*), when man disobeyed God’s law, pleased himself, obeyed the temptation of satan, man sinned, lost righteousness and relationship with God, and his nature became “corrupt according to deceitful lusts.” *Eph4.22, 2:3*. God’s conclusion about all mankind is in *Rom3:10*. “There is none righteous, no not one,” *Rom 3:23*, “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” See *Rom 6:23*.

3. Into this situation of desperate need God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity Godhead, who took a human body as the child of Mary, *Lk 1:34,35, Mat 1:20-25*, laid aside His divine glory, lived a perfect sinless life, and offered Himself as a full perfect sacrifice for all sins, “so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life,” *Jn 3:16*. See: *1Pet 3:18, 1Pet 2:24, Jn 1:29, Mat 1:21*

4. At the Cross there was a great **“EXCHANGE”**.

Jesus took our	sins guilt eternal death sinfulness bondage darkness sickness curse defeat poverty and so on	that we might receive	His forgiveness pardon eternal life righteousness liberty light healing blessing victory riches and so on
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In general terms: He took all the evil due to man as a result of the “Fall”	That we might receive all the good that was His eternally by right
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5. Read *Rom 3:21-24, 4:1-6*.

By faith in Jesus Christ, **by faith alone**, (not by our “good works”), we are “justified” declared righteous in God’s sight.

He took our sinfulness that we might receive His righteousness.

6. Read: *2Cor 5:21, 1Cor 1:30, Jer 23:6, Phil 3:9, Is 61:10, Is54:17*. By believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and God and Saviour we receive **His righteousness**.

7. God sees us in His sight as **perfectly righteous**. - as having His righteousness.

8. Results of this exchange, of our being “right” in His sight:

He looks on us with favour	<i>Ps 5:12, Ps 44:3</i>
He cares for us	<i>1Pet 5:7</i>
He is for us	<i>Ps 56:9, Ezk 36:9, “on our side,” Ps 118:6</i>
He does not condemn us, accuse us, see us as guilty	
He accepts us	<i>Eph 1:6 (KJV or NKJV)</i>
We are precious to Him	<i>Zech 2:8</i>
We are chosen by Him	<i>Eph 1:4</i>
We are blessed by Him	<i>Eph 1:3, Gal 3:14, Jer 17:7,8</i>
We have His abundant life	<i>Jn 10:10b</i>
His desire is toward us	<i>S.O.S. 7:10</i>
He is always with us to help and protect us	<i>Heb 13:5,6</i>

9. How is this gift of Righteousness, *Rom 5:17*, expressed and maintained in us?
- By keeping on the “breastplate” of righteousness, *Eph 6:14*.
 - Which is **maintaining faith and love** in our lives, *1Thes 5:8*.
 - Faith in our hearts expressed by **love**, *Gal 5:6,13*.
 (“Love” is a choice and action, to seek the highest good of others. It is not an emotional response of “liking”. It is to forgive and pray for others – “friends or enemies,” *Mat 5:44*)
 - 1Jn 3:21-23*. Acting **in faith**/believing, **and love**, is perfect obedience, holiness godliness, and whatever we ask we receive from Him. See *Gal 5:14*.
 - In this way we are **blameless** before God, (“blameless” not “faultless”).
1Thes 5:23,24, ready always to stand before Him, at His appearing, or our “departing.”
10. **Righteousness** is a **tremendous “force”** and by declaring *Is 54:17*, for example, the oppressive, condemning spirits of satan are cut off, and we have confidence and boldness before God. Amen!