UNDERSTANDING THE FOUNDATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Rom. 5:1-12

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

The gift of Righteousness is essential in understanding everything Christ has done for the believer through his death, burial and resurrection. Without this foundational understanding we will struggle with condemnation, self-righteousness, guilt, a legalistic approach to ministry, and a judgmental spirit.

God is not interested in behavioral modification but desires all His children to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How does a believer achieve this supernatural transformation. This lesson will get you started in understanding the gift righteousness.

John 1:17
For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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John 1:17 shows us that Grace and Truth are more than subjects but are Jesus Christ himself because Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:12-20
5:12 So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, and  
so death spread to all people because all sinned — 5:13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world, but there is no accounting for sin when there is no law.  
5:14 Yet death reigned from Adam until Moses even over those who did not sin in the same way that Adam (who is a type of the coming one) transgressed.  
5:15 But the gracious gift is not like the transgression. For if the many died through the transgression of the one man, how much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ multiply to the many!  
5:16 And the gift is not like the one who sinned. For judgment, resulting from the one transgression, led to condemnation, but the gracious gift from the many failures led to justification.  
5:17 For if, by the transgression of the one man, death reigned through the one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ!  
5:18 Consequently, just as condemnation for all people came through one transgression, so too through the one righteous act came righteousness leading to life for all people.  
5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man many will be made righteous.

The scriptures are very clear on two things:
1. Through one mans act of disobedience (Adam) we all were made sinners  
2. Through one mans act of obedience (Christ Jesus) we all were made righteous

***IF WE DID NOTHING TO EARN RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH OUR DEEDS, HANDWORK, EFFORT, OR OBEDIENCE; THEN HOW CAN YOU LOSE YOU RIGHTEOUSNESS BY DEEDS, HANDWORK, EFFORT, OR DISOBEDIENCE??***

Gal. 3:1

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You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

**Can a believer undo the righteousness of Christ?** God forbid that our works are greater then efficaciousness of the blood that shared on Calvary.

Let us tackle this question....

Our identity was IN sin because of Adam but now our identity is IN Christ Jesus. Hopefully we can agree our identity is NOT through our deeds, works, or behavior but through our faith in what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

**1 Cor. 1:28-29**

...28and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29so that no man may boast before God. 30But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,...

**Gen 15:6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness (KJV)

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Abraham was made righteous through faith (NIV)

The message of righteousness according to the Law was about **doing.** However, the message of righteousness according to what the Apostles preached and Jesus taught is about **believing.** At no time can your **DEEDS** make you righteous in Christ.

Righteousness by faith is:

**JOSEPH PRINCE SAYS, “NOT RIGHT DOING......IT IS RIGHT BELIEVING!!!!!!”**

Doing is the (fruit) not the ROOT....in other words if you believe right you will do right. If you struggle to do right it is because you struggle with believing right.

The Law is Transactional (doing for receiving) **Requires no faith**
Grace is Transformational (Receiving to becoming) **Requires ALL faith**

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Faith has a far deeper meaning for the believer then just getting things. Faith is for us to become righteous like Abraham.

Which comes first (Repentance or The Blessing of Christ)?

**Eph. 1:3**
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love... Clearly the Blessing comes before repentance. Therefore, the blessing under grace will bring you to repentance.

Our blessing, our righteousness, our favor is in Christ Jesus therefore, everything we are and will be is because of our position in Christ Jesus.

**The Promise Realized Through Faith**
**Rom. 4:13**
13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.
16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”

The word of God is clear on this matter although many struggle to receive this word by faith. If you struggle with sin, condemnation, self-righteousness, guilt, narcissism, confidence, and many other self-indulging or self-afflicting issues receiving the gift of righteousness by faith will set you free.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS TO BIBLE CLASS...... I LOVE YOU with THE LOVE OF CHRIST! ~Pastor J

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