

# Righteous

## INTRO:

- **Righteousness:**

- **Strong's** – in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God.
- **Vine's** – The man who trusts in Christ becomes 'the righteousness of God in Him,' [II Cor. 5:21], i.e., becomes in Christ all that God requires a man to be, all that he could never be in himself.
- **2:28, 29 [NASB]** – *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.* <sup>29</sup> *But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*

## Romans 3

**[NLT]**

*Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision?* <sup>2</sup> *Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.* <sup>3</sup> *True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful?* <sup>4</sup> *Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him, "You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court."* [Ps. 51:4]

<sup>5</sup> *"But," some might say, "our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn't it unfair, then, for him to punish us?" (This is merely a human point of view.)* <sup>6</sup> *Of course not! If God were not entirely fair, how would he be qualified to judge the world?* <sup>7</sup> *"But," someone might still argue, "how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him*

more glory?”<sup>8</sup> And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, “The more we sin, the better it is!” Those who say such things deserve to be condemned.

- Then, as now, many think only guilt will make us obey God.

<sup>9</sup> Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. <sup>10</sup> As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. <sup>11</sup> No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.” [Ps. 14:1-3; 33:1-3] <sup>13</sup> “Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies.” “Snake venom drips from their lips.” [Ps. 5:9; 140:3] <sup>14</sup> “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” [Ps. 10:7] <sup>15</sup> “They rush to commit murder. <sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery always follow them. <sup>17</sup> They don’t know where to find peace.” [Is. 59:7, 8] <sup>18</sup> “They have no fear of God at all.” [Ps. 36:1] <sup>19</sup> Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

- **Believers Study Bible:** Man is immersed in the misery of sin, and he is guilty of contentment in sin. No one even seeks after God. Humanity as a whole is under the power and condemnation of sin. One of the greatest enigmas of human experience is the continuing persuasion of most religious people that a man can somehow make himself acceptable to the holy God through the observance of law, ritual, and moral precept...

<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

- This is righteousness!

<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, <sup>26</sup> for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

- **Believers Study Bible:** The moving cause of (righteousness) is the grace of God. The ground upon which (righteousness) is accomplished is the blood of Christ. [Righteousness], like all other aspects of salvation, is appropriated by faith.
- **MSG** – Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.

<sup>27</sup> Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. <sup>28</sup> So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. <sup>29</sup> After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. <sup>30</sup> There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. <sup>31</sup> Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.