

## The Gift of Righteousness

**Romans 5:17** [NASB] – *For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

- “**abundance**” – an exceeding measure, something above the ordinary.
- “**abundance of grace**” – implied, salvation.
- “**gift**” – a free gift. [Not something earned]
- “**righteousness**” – state of him who is as he ought to be.
- “**reign in life**” – to exercise the highest influence, to control.

**Romans 10:1-15** – *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

- **Philippians 3:5-11** – *circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

<sup>5</sup> *For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above)*

<sup>7</sup> or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

- **Faith righteousness** doesn’t need Christ to come to earth. He already has – INCARNATION.
- **Also**, to bring Christ up from the dead is unnecessary, because He has already risen – RESURRECTION.
- **What DOES faith righteousness say?** The gospel is near, accessible, intelligible, and easily obtained. It is the good news of salvation by faith which Paul and the other apostles preached.

<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. <sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

- **Confessing Jesus as Lord** = accepting the truth that the Babe of Bethlehem’s manger is the Lord of life and glory, that the **Jesus** of the NT is the **Lord** (Jehovah) of the OT.
- **Believing God raised Jesus** = accepting the truth of His resurrection, with all that it involves.
- **Vs. 13** – it can’t get any simpler than that!

**Richards:** The concept of faith righteousness is a paradox. It seems so contradictory. Those who do not understand it think that it is a form of “easy believism.” Some falsely think that faith righteousness leads to a compromised life. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Accepting the righteousness of Jesus as our own connects us to the power of righteousness. Faith righteousness gives us the only escape from the sense of lack that draws us into sin.