

We are New Creations– Message 2

I. What Righteousness Means

A. The Righteousness of God

1. Righteousness (Vine)

- a) Righteousness can be defined as the quality of being right or just before God or possessing the inner condition acceptable to God
- b) Right-standing before God is what gives each believer the privilege of having relationship with God because our previous sin nature detached and separated us from Him

2. The right to stand in His presence

- a) Now that the blood of Jesus has recreated our human spirit and the stains of guilt and shame have been permanently erased, Hebrews 10:19 tells believers they have the right to boldly come into the presence of their Father
- b) This verse describes that we not only have the right to come into God's presence, but vividly depicts the manner and attitude we should possess when doing so
- c) There should be no sense of guilt or shame when we approach God because in the eyes of our Father, the blood of the Lamb has made us just as spotless and perfect as the Lamb Himself
- d) Now that the guilt has been removed and forgotten by the Father, this eliminates any reason to be fearful or timid when approaching God; rather we are to be bold and confident, knowing that we are in Christ and have been given free access to fellowship with the Father

B. Righteousness is a State of Being

1. 1 Corinthians 1:30

- a) This tells every child of God that no one could ever attain to this state of being, meaning that it is a free gift from God that could never be attained through one's own efforts
- b) We are told that we are now in Christ because He became our righteousness, or right-standing with God; we possess the same level of right-standing with the Father that the Son of God has

- c) He has become our righteousness, giving us the same nature and level of fellowship with the Father that the Son enjoys, which is why Ephesians 2 tells us that we have been made to sit together with Him at the right hand of God in the heavenly places
- d) He has become for us all we will ever need or could want in this life

2. Romans 3:21-24

- a) One of the most critical aspects of our righteousness is that it comes through faith in Jesus
- b) Why would righteousness come through faith? Why would the Lord not just grant us this right-standing due to His sacrifice?
- c) Righteousness especially comes through faith because we must believe that the old nature has been wiped away and the new spotless nature has been instilled inside of us
- d) This can be particularly hard because a great number of people consider it borderline blasphemous to declare oneself “the righteousness of God” due to the “just and old sinner saved by grace” mentality, which is entirely contradictory to the Word
- e) At the time of salvation, we are given this brand new nature and the old nature has been completely removed, giving every believer freedom from past guilt and shame while confidently enjoying intimate fellowship with God
- f) This flawless and spotless state cannot be earned or obtained through our own vain efforts, but must be obtained through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus on behalf of every person

C. Restored by Righteousness

1. Hebrews 4:14 (our standing with God)

- a) We are told here that our right-standing with God includes Jesus as our high priest, who continually intercedes for all the saints at the right hand of God
- b) Not only does Jesus act as our High priest, but the blood shed for us was not that of a bull or goat, but was the spotless blood of the Son of God, which did not merely atone for or cover our sins, but completely remitted them, as though they never existed before

- c) We confidently hold fast our profession of faith because along with the sacrifice of God's Son, He has freely given us all things (Rom. 8:32)

2. Ephesians 2:11-16, 19 (our fellowship)

- a) Before our salvation and spiritual recreation, verse 12 describes our relationship with God as that of aliens and strangers, ones who are totally foreign to God's way of being and doing
- b) We are also told that to be without God in the world is to have *an absence of hope*, which is not merely wishing but having no ability to *expect* anything good to happen in life
- c) However, due to Jesus' sacrifice, we have been drawn near to Christ because the wall of sin that separated us from God has been destroyed and we are no longer aliens or foreigners, but heirs of God and equal heirs with Christ
- d) We are sons and daughters of God who can be just as free and intimate with Him as an earthly child would be with their mother or father

3. Romans 5:1 (peace with God)

- a) Now, because of our faith in the redemptive work of God through Jesus, we have peace with God, denoting the absence of strife or contention
- b) The sin that previously caused contention and separation with God has been remitted and forgotten by God and we now enjoy rest and fellowship with the Father
- c) This causes us to do what verse 2 states, which is that we have access to the grace and favor of God while eagerly anticipating and rejoicing in the expectation of eternal life

4. Romans 6:7-8, 18 (freedom in Jesus)

- a) With the newness of life granted to us by God, we reckon ourselves dead to sin, giving us liberty and freedom in this life to live with God and be vessels for His glory
- b) With this newfound freedom in Christ, we are no longer servants and slaves to the dictates of sin, but we are now willing and obedient servants of righteousness
- c) We are no longer bound by the law of sin and death which once ruled our lives, but are now under the law of the Spirit of life through Christ Jesus, giving us freedom to do the Lord's will

5. Galatians 4:4-7 (sonship given to us)

- a) After being redeemed from the law, born again and restored to right-standing with God, we have been made sons and daughters of God
- b) It is seen in verse 6 when the Spirit was sent to live and abide in us, which causes us to cry out, “Abba” Father, or “daddy”
- c) The same way an infant would cry out for his or her earthly father is the same way our inner man is to cry out and long for the love and fellowship of our Heavenly Father
- d) We have been adopted into the household of God, meaning that we are not just servants of God, but have been made sons of God, giving us access to His presence anytime we desire
- e) We are now children of God who have been restored to right-standing with their Father and can enjoy in this life a rich and rewarding inheritance that includes everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)

II. Summary

- A. We are the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus
- B. We have the right to go boldly into God’s presence
- C. We have been restored to right-standing with God