

Why Not?
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Romans 14:11-12

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Do we all understand this morning that we all will stand in judgment before God? That each and every one of us shall individually give an accounting of himself to God?

You can deny it; you can pretend that it is made up and is really something that is never going to happen; but that won't change the fact that judgment is coming.

Some of you, (and I know this only because I have watched this scenario play out for decades now) come to Church week after week; you hear the Gospel again and again and still you have never placed your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins.

I cannot help but echo the sentiment of Nicodemus in

John 3:9 when he said...*How can these things be?!*

You know the Bible is true...you know that God is going to judge you...I'm pretty sure you know that you are a sinner.

You've heard all about the White Throne where all the unsaved will stand before Jesus.

You've heard about the lake of fire; you've heard about heaven!

I don't get it.

Some preachers say that you don't want to give up your sin.

You know that all we believers are still sinners. Is it true that you just don't want to give up your sins? I do not know that it is.

I can't imagine that you do not know that you definitely are going to give up your sin.

I'm pretty sure you are smart enough to know that people in hell are not down there smoking and drinking and having sex and doing drugs.

Some say that you simply are not one of "the chosen".

Now I've been studying my Bible for a long time and I know for a fact that Jesus wants nothing more than to save you: if only you would trust Him to do it!

As crazy as it sounds, I suppose it is possible that you have bought into that lie.

I've heard that some think they are too bad for Jesus to save. Is that true?

I've also heard that some think that because they are just as good as the rest of us that they will just take their chances.

I've even thought, "Well, maybe it's me"? If I did a better job of explaining it or if I made it a little clearer...so I keep trying harder but thus far, the problem still persists.

Some say, "Well, maybe God is just not drawing them?" If that were true, then why are you here?

I love our Paise Team, I do, but I must admit that the entertainment value of our singing and preaching can easily be bested in lots of other places.

Maybe they're just not being convicted.

I can understand someone questioning my effectiveness at preaching the Gospel, but questioning whether the Holy Spirit is failing to do His job is somewhere I don't think you want to go.

Between myself and these other two preachers often heard in this place, we have probably read to you virtually every warning in the whole Bible about what you are facing.

Scriptures like:

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

You will face, as it states in

Romans 2:5 ...the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth...

We warn you; we strive to educate you...you don't just have a sin problem, you have a righteousness problem!

What does it mean to be righteous?

[dikaios](#)

dik'-ah-yos

From [G1349](#); *equitable* (in character or act); by implication *innocent, holy* (absolutely or relatively): - just, meet, right (-eous).

As Paul the Apostle addresses the Roman Church, the premier issue he deals with is the equality of Jews and Gentiles as we all shall stand in judgment before God.

The predominant thought in religion today is that each of us will come before God bearing whatever level of righteousness we possess, hoping somehow to be accepted before the Lord.

I love you, we all do, but your level of righteousness is simply not good enough!

Now before you label us as arrogant or self-righteous, we freely admit that our righteousness wasn't good enough either.

Jesus didn't just go to the cross and pay for all your sins, He became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Look what was going on with the Romans:

Romans 9:30-10:5

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

10:1-5

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Maybe, just maybe...I actually have explained it clearly enough; maybe too clearly for some.

I'm relatively sure that nobody wants to go to hell.

I'm really not that sure that everyone wants to go to heaven; lots of things will be missing there that are dearly loved down here.

Maybe, just maybe...your problem is that rebellious streak.

I can relate to that because I have one of those myself.

Maybe you just don't like the idea of Jesus making you into a righteous person.

If this is your problem (and I am still not sure what your problem is) you are just going to have to get over it.

You can face the Lord (which you certainly will do) with only your own righteousness, which is worth less than nothing; or you can choose to face Jesus with **The Righteousness which is by faith.**

I. When has mankind ever seen a level of righteousness that is acceptable to a Holy and Righteous God?

A. The world has seen true righteousness once and only once.

1. Hebrews 1:1-8

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of **righteousness** *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

2. To be righteous looking will not do.

Matthew 23:27

27 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.**

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

3. To be righteousness sounding will not cut it.

Calling a man “holy father” neither makes him holy or your father.

4. For that matter, the title “reverend” is used only once in the Bible, and it is referring to God not to a man.

6. **Matthew 5:20** For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

B. There is only one way your righteousness can meet this high standard.

1. That one and only way is through the righteousness which is by faith.

2. **Romans 9:30**

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

3. While the Jews were failing as they sought to attain righteousness through keeping the law, the Gentiles had attained the righteousness which is by faith.

II. How is a Holy God going to have fellowship with man, of whom each and every one of them is an unholy creature?

A. Not only is man unrighteous,

1. He is helpless; there is nothing he can do about it.

2. There was only one hope, God had to find a way to give us the righteousness we did not have.

3. To fellowship with man, God must either become unholy or devise a way to make us holy; He actually did both.

4. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be sin* for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

5. Jesus is God in the flesh Who came and paid for your sin and now offers you, as a free gift, His own perfect righteousness.

III. Because of Jesus you can face our Holy and Righteous God with a righteousness that is completely and totally acceptable to Him.

A. *Believers are made acceptable.*

1. **Ephesians 1:6** ...he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

2. **Romans 3:19-26** Explains how this happens:

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, *I say, at this time* his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

3. See the three words, “**at this time**” in verse 26?

B. *Your answer is in the Word.*

1. Once you learn that you can trust the Bible...

2. And from it you learn Who Jesus is; that He is God in flesh.

3. And from it also you learn that He died for your sins, He was buried and rose again from the dead...

4. Then when you, upon that understanding, believe; that is, **you put your trust in Jesus to save you;**

5. **Upon your faith in Jesus, God will declare you righteous; giving you His own perfect righteousness.**

Conclusion:

Think about it. If Jesus, Who spoke the world into existence, who declared, “let there be light” and there was light; if He declares that now you are righteous based on His own shed blood, then what will you be?

Romans 4:3 as well as James and Galatians as well all state that “Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”

This same imputing of God’s righteousness is done for every believer just as it was done for Abraham!

Only there is more!

Now that Jesus has died and rose again, now that the payment has been made, IN FULL!

We are more than counted righteous, which in itself is enough.