

Christ, Our Righteousness, The Other Half of the Gospel Romans 10:4

Romans 10:1–4 (NKJV)

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

Introduction

For decades now we have seen a decline in those who believe the gospel. There has been for years a steady stream of “professed believers” leaving the church with no intentions of returning. There have been a number of articles that have given the stats on the declining population of Christianity.

Ligonier and Lifeway have given us valuable information regarding this tragic trend. It is sobering to see how many are denying the faith they once affirmed. And many don't outright deny the doctrine or the gospel, but they just don't care and it has no affect on their lives.

I read an article this morning that was stating that if the current trend continues of "religious switching" which means they are leaving Christianity for atheism or agnosticism or "nones", no religious affiliation at all, the population of Christianity will drop from the current 64% to a dismal 35 % by 2070.

Depending on whether religious switching continues at recent rates, speeds up or stops entirely, the projections show Christians of all ages shrinking from 64% to between a little more than half (54%) and just above one-third (35%) of all Americans by 2070. Over that same period, "nones" would rise from the current 30% to somewhere between 34% and 52% of the U.S. population.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/modeling-the-future-of-religion-in-america/>

Since Covid, it has become clear that a large number of confessing evangelicals don't see the necessity of the local assembly. They have opted out for the Livestream, or what is termed, "internet church". So while confessing to be believers, they live in a constant state of disobedience, not observing the Lord's Table, not submitting to a body of elders, and not practicing the one another's of the New Testament, but consistently practicing the "forsaking of the assembly".

This is a huge problem, and is a reflection at best of a deficient ecclesiology or at worst a missing faith.

While I am very thankful for the surge in churches that are reclaiming the faith of our Reformed tradition and I am seeing more and more men who are preaching expositionally and are committed to the clarity of the gospel, preaching the whole gospel, there is still a large population of churches that don't.

One person I know said of the church that they attended, that the church was anemic. That was a very discerning observation.

The word anemic can be used a number of different ways.

One is in relation to your blood. In this case it means that your blood is lacking the healthy quality of enough red blood cells that carry oxygen to muscles and organs of the body. In other words, there is not enough of red blood cells to keep a person healthy.

Some anemias can result from nutritional deficiencies. This type, however, rarely produces significant anemia unless the deficiency is severe. The main

deficiencies responsible for anemia are iron deficiency anemia -which is by far the most common cause of anemia worldwide-,

Also it is sometimes caused from a problem with the bone marrow producing enough red blood cells.<https://antileukemia.com/dangerously-low-hemoglobin-levels/3/>

But also it can be used a number of other ways.

1. lacking force, vitality or spirit
2. lacking interest or savor
3. lacking substance or quantity

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/anemic>

All of these can be said of many of the churches today.

They are lacking the life giving blood of the whole gospel. They have some blood cells but not enough. And the main skeletal structure of the church (The Preaching and teaching) is not producing healthy blood and as a result, they are lacking Power, interest and substance.

The only correction to this problem is not dress up the church more with worldly clothes or to make it

look appealing to the lost. This does nothing to address the anemic body behind the clothes.

We need to address the source of the problem. The bone marrow of the church and the nutrition of the church.

We need to see the leadership and preachers of the church begin to give the whole plate of the gospel for the church to feed upon, and stop eating the nutritionally deficient junk food the world is offering and sometimes what the seminaries are producing.

This brings me to the point of the message tonight.

We have been suffering for decades now with half of the gospel. Most people who attend church or hear a gospel message only hear half of the good news.

There is much talk about the need for the forgiveness of sins and making it clear that Jesus died for your sins. And with that I will say a hearty "AMEN"

The Bible is very clear of our need to have our sins atoned for and that we need be forgiven of all our sins.

It is very clear that our sin has separated from God, and as a result, we fall short of the perfection and glory of God.

It is very clear that our sins bring the wrath of God upon us and in our lost condition the wrath remains on us.

It is very clear that if someone dies in their sins, not having their sins forgiven, they will face an eternity in Hell to pay for all their sin and rebellion against God.

And to know that in the death of Christ, He paid the price, took the wrath, received the just payment for all my sin, is one of the most amazing statements in all the Bible.

But that is only half the message!

He not only died for you.....

He lived for you!!

His life is just as important as his death. In fact, had he not lived on this planet a sinless life, you would not be able to see God.

The Gospel is not just about having your sins forgiven, it is also equally about you being given righteousness

It is negative and positive.

As R.C. Sproul said

You need forgiveness of sin to keep you out of Hell but you need Righteousness to get you into heaven.

Jesus accomplished both.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Theologians refer to this as

The Active and Passive obedience of Christ.

The Passive is his obedience to suffer and die on the cross and receive (passive) the wrath of God for our sins on our behalf

The Active is his whole life of perfect obedience to the Laws of God

Matthew 3:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, “**Permit *it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.***” Then he allowed Him..... ¹⁷ And

suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

John 4:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Matthew 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

John 8:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

1 Peter 2:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

²² “*Who committed no sin,
Nor was deceit found in His mouth*”;

²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Romans 10:4 (NKJV)

⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

This one verse sums up the Active obedience of Christ on our behalf

So in our study we will see

I. The Problem of our Self Righteousness

II. The Person who Secures our True Righteousness

III. The People who are Saved by His Righteousness

I. The Problem of our Self Righteousness

Men and women are inherently self-righteous. We are convinced we are better than we really are. We have created an arbitrary standard by which we judge ourselves and others. We look at the splinter in our neighbors eye while having a 2x4 plank in our own eyes. We are self-righteous judges of all those sinners around us. We are pretty good people, we say. Or we are not as bad as that man. Or I would never do that, we say. Or I'm thankful I'm not like them. Consciously or not we have often said with the

Pharisee, God, and thank you that I'm not like that sinner over there.

This was and is the problem with Israel. They are blind to the need for Christ because they are self righteous. If you believe you are righteous, you will see no need for another form of righteousness, i.e. no need for Jesus.

We discussed this in detail our last time together in Romans 10.

In Paul's answer to the rejection by Israel of their Messiah and their current state of unbelief, Paul says many are not chosen sovereignly for salvation, but also many are condemned because of self-righteousness that lead to not believing in the Messiah.

Romans 10:1–3 (NKJV)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

As I told you that last two sermons, this self-righteousness leads men and women to be unsavable.

What is missing in Israel and so many in our country and churches is a correct understanding of the righteousness that saves.

You don't need a little righteousness or more righteousness to out weigh your bad or evil deeds.

You need perfect righteousness, complete righteousness, 100% righteousness. You need to be Perfect.

So many rightly say " Well nobody's perfect" and that is true, and in saying that you have just unqualified yourself from salvation. YOU have missed the standard.

You don't need a little obedience to the laws of God, you need to have obeyed all the laws of God perfectly, all the time for the entire time of our life.

Doing pretty good is not good enough

Keeping some of the commandments is not keeping enough.

If you are one of these people, you are self-deceived

[The Law of God was given for 3 primary purposes.](#)

1. To show us what the perfect standard is and to help us understand what Holiness is.
2. To show us that we are unable to keep the standard and that we cannot be Holy.
3. To drive us to the only one who has kept the law and can save us.

1. To show us what the perfect standard is and to help us understand what Holiness is.

The Law show us by contrast what Holiness is. It is not lying, but loving. It is not unfaithful, but faithful. It is not murder, it is life. It is not stealing but giving. It is not hating but honoring. It is not factious but forgiving.

We are better able to understand the HOLINESS of God by looking at the Law of God.

With out it we would not understand perfect righteousness and we could not see what holiness is.

2. To show us that we are unable to keep the standard and that we cannot be Holy.

Romans 8:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us

Acts 13:39 (NKJV)

..... by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

3. To drive us to the only one who has kept the law and can save us.

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those 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 no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:7–12 (NKJV)

⁷ What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “*You shall not covet.*”⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead.⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.¹⁰ And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death.¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.¹² Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

So as much as we may want to or believe we are, we can never attain perfect righteousness by keeping the law... we will always fall woefully short. Self-righteousness is deceptive and damning to the soul.

And a Gospel that is devoid of the message of the need for a perfect righteousness is a deficient and incomplete gospel. It is only half the message

I. The Problem of our Self Righteousness

II. The Person who Secures our True Righteousness

⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For — (greek. gar). used as connective word to say that v. 4 explains what is meant by v.3

Romans 10:3 (NKJV)

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

How are they ignorant of God's Righteousness and what is God's Righteousness?

Answer — — Christ

Christ is the end of the law. The completion of the law, the fulfillment the law.

1 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith,

James 5:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the **end** *intended* by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

τέλος, εος, τό, (τέλλομαι, τέλλω) coming to pass, performance, consummation

Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). In [A Greek-English lexicon](#) (p. 1772). Clarendon Press.

τέλος. is first in the Greek sentence, emphasis is laid upon this reality.

Romans 3:20–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the

Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Peter 1:1 (NKJV)

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

Philippians 3:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ 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 ⁹ 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;

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ΠΑΝΤΙ ΤΩ ΠΙΣΤΕΥΟΝΤΙ.

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ 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;

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

Galatians 2:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Galatians 3:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Romans 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Romans 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”