

# DOCTRINE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- I.** Vocabulary:
- A.** The principal Hebrew noun is צְדָקָה/tsedeq: righteousness.
  - B.** The principle Greek word is δικαιοσύνη/dikaioσύνη: righteousness.
- II.** Righteousness is a divine attribute.
- A.** As declared in Psa.11:7, *“For the Lord is righteous; He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.”*
  - B.** It is the moral “watchdog” of His essence by which all other of His attributes are governed.
  - C.** His righteousness is forever. Psa.111:3, *“Splendid and majestic is His work; And His righteousness endures forever”*; Psa.119:142, *“Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness”*; Psa.71:19, *“For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, You who has done great things; O God, who is like You?”*; Isa.51:6-8
  - D.** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God’s throne. Psa.89:14, *“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.”*; Psa.97:2
  - E.** He loves righteousness and justice. Psa.33:5, *“He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.”*; Psa.146:8, *“The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous.”*; Psa.45:7, *“You (Christ) have loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; Therefore God (Christ), Your God (Father) has anointed You.”*
  - F.** All His ways are righteous. Psa.145:17, *“The Lord is righteous in all His ways, And kind in all His deeds”*. Rev.15:3,4
  - G.** All His judgments are righteous. Rev.19:2, *“Because His judgments are true and righteous...”*; Act.17:31, *“because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man who He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”*
  - H.** All His commandments are righteous. Psa.119:172, *“Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness”*.; Psa.119:7,62,75,106,123,144,160,164
  - I.** As compared to God, no man is righteous. Psa.143:2, *“And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous.”* God is absolute perfect righteousness “+R” and man is less than or –R. See Rom.3:10
  - J.** Jesus Christ is declared to be righteous/+R. 1Joh.2:1, *“My little children, I am writing these things to you that you many not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”*. Rev.16:5
  - K.** Jesus Himself declared He was from the realm of righteousness and thus represented all that emanates from it. Joh.8:23

- L. God is the source of the believer's righteousness. Psa.4:1, "*Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!*"
  - M. God exercises righteousness on the earth. Jer.9:24, "... *let him who boasts boast of this, that he understand and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the Lord.*"
- III.** Salvation Ph<sub>1</sub>-righteousness is God's +R imputed to the believer at the point of faith in Christ. Rom.3:21-23, "*But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"
- A. Abraham is the pattern of this imputation to believers. Rom.4:12, "*and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.*"
  - B. This salvation-+R does not come by works. Rom.9:30-32, "*What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.*"; Rom.4; Gal.2:16,21; 3:6-9,21,22; Phil.3:9; Ti.3:5
  - C. This +R comes to the believer (though not felt or seen) in the form of the human spirit. Eph.4:24, "*and put on the new self (human spirit), which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*"
  - D. +R is necessary for the existence of eternal life and the work of Christ on the cross makes it possible for God to bestow eternal life on all that believe. 2Cor.5:21, "*He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness (+R imputed) of God in Him.*"
  - E. This saving righteousness is as close as saving faith in the Word of God (WOG). Rom.10:1-22
  - F. The cross constitutes an act of righteousness that makes this grace-righteousness available to all. Rom.5:18, "*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.*"
  - G. Justification is the term used to describe the result of the imputation of God's +R.
  - H. Where the +R of God is, the blessing of eternal life follows immediately. Gal.3:21
  - I. Sometimes the designation "righteous" is used in Scripture of those who possess +R i.e., believers. Psa.112:6, "*For he will never be shaken; The righteous will be remembered forever.*"; Act.10:22 of moral believers; Prov.10:32 of believers who live by the righteousness of the WOG
  - J. No one will see eternal life unless they possess +R. Mat.5:20, "*For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisee, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.*"

- K.** The Holy Spirit convicts man of his need for +R. Joh.16:8,10
- IV.** Experiential/Ph<sub>2</sub> righteousness is based on faith plus application/works.
- A.** The plan of grace instructs us to live according to God's righteousness. Ti.2:11-12, "For the grace of God has been revealed as saving grace to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live sensible, righteously and godly in the present age."; Rom.14:17, "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."
  - B.** Bible Doctrine informs us with respect to the particulars of God's righteousness. Prov.1:1-3; 2Tim.3:16
  - C.** God loves the believer who pursues His righteousness. Pro.15:9
  - D.** God leads +V in the paths of righteousness. Psa.23:3
  - E.** Those who pursue righteousness come under certain promises. Mat.6:33, "*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.*"
  - F.** God brings DD (divine discipline) into our lives so that we might be righteous like Him. Heb.12:11, "*All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*"; Psa.118:15-21
  - G.** We are to isolate the STA through R<sub>B</sub> and employ our bodily parts as instruments of righteousness in the A/C. Rom.6:13,16,18-20
  - H.** We will be persecuted for righteousness. Mat.5:10; 1Pet.3:14
  - I.** SG<sub>3</sub> is the harvest of personal righteousness. 2Cor.9:9,10
  - J.** A wreath/crown of righteousness is for those who finish their course. 2Tim.4:8
  - K.** Experiential righteousness is an evidence of salvation. 1Joh.2:29; 3:7,10
  - L.** Experiential righteousness is holy behavior. 1Pet.1:15
- V.** Some things that can be said about the righteous (positional and/or experiential).
- A.** The Lord approves of the way of the righteous (Psa.1:6); He is with the righteous (Psa.14:5); and He watches over them (Psa.34:15).
  - B.** Their path grows brighter and brighter. Pro.4:18
  - C.** They have a refuge in death. Pro.14:32; Psal.10:25
  - D.** God hears their prayer. Pro.15:29; Jam.5:16
  - E.** God loves the righteous. Psal.146:8
  - F.** God delivers the righteous. Psal.31:1; 37:39, "*But the salvation (deliverance) of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble*"; Pro.11:8,9; 12:13; 18:10
  - G.** God provides the righteous with basic living grace. Pro.10:3; 13:25; Psal.37:16, "*Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of the wicked.*"
  - H.** God rewards and blesses the righteous according to their righteousness. Psal.18:20, "*The Lord will reward (גַּמַּל /gamal; to deal; to ripen; denotes the MAJG and Divine good production) me according to my righteousness (intake*

*and application of BD); According to the cleanness of my hands (time in FHS) He will cause to recompense (שׁוּב /shub; to return; pay back what is due) me.”*

- I. God blesses the righteous with various blessings (Pro.10:6). Ex: life- 10:16; wealth-15:6; reward in time-11:31; desire granted-10:24; home life- 3:33; Psa.118:15; memory blessed-Pro.10:7
  - J. Some things that are characteristic of the righteous:
    - 1. Expresses Divine viewpoint. Psa.37:30; Pro.10:21,31,32
    - 2. Gives thanks. Psa.140:13
    - 3. Ponders how to answer. Pro.15:28
    - 4. Is a guide to others. Pro.12:26
    - 5. His thoughts are just. Pro.12:15
    - 6. Hates falsehood. Pro.13:5
    - 7. Is concerned for the rights of the poor. Pro.29:7
    - 8. He rejoices when justice is executed. Pro.21:15
    - 9. Gives abundantly. Pro.21:26; Psa.37:21
    - 10. Becomes wiser and wiser. Pro.9:9
    - 11. Displays courage. Pro.28:1
    - 12. Has regard for the well being of his beast. Pro.12:10
    - 13. His way is smooth. Isa.26:7
    - 14. Lives by faith. Heb.10:38
  - K. The afflictions of the righteous are many. Psa.34:19, “*Many are the afflictions of the righteous; But the Lord delivers him out of them all.*” The Lord sustains the righteous through their afflictions. Psa.37:17; Pro.11:5
  - L. The wicked (רָשָׁע /rasha) persecute the righteous by:
    - 1. Maligning them. Psa.31:18
    - 2. Plotting against them. Psa.37:12
    - 3. Spying on them. Psa.37:32a
    - 4. Seeks to murder them. Psa.37:32b; Mat.23:35; Jam.5:6
  - M. It is not good to abuse the righteous in judgment. Pro.17:26; 18:5
  - N. God tests the hearts of the righteous. Psa.7:9; 11:4,5; Jer.11:20
- VI.** Noah is an outstanding example of what a righteous person is. Gen.6:9b, “*Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.*”; 7:1, “*Then the Lord said to Noah, ‘Enter the ark, you and all your household; for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time’.*”
- VII.** There is a false form of righteousness (a human good crust) displayed by false teachers and –V in the last days. Mat.23:28; 2Cor.11:15; 2Tim.3:1-5
- VIII.** Righteousness and the coming of Christ.
- A. The Lord will judge the world in righteousness. Psa.9:8; 96:13
  - B. Christ will wage war in righteousness. Rev.19:11
  - C. His coming will usher in a kingdom of everlasting righteousness. Dan.9:24
  - D. The righteous long for this day. Mat.5:6

- E. All the judgments of the tribulation are righteous. Rev.16:5-7
  - F. At this time, the wicked (unbelievers) will be separated from the righteous. Mat.13:47-50
  - G. Then the righteous will experience great personal glory. Mat.13:43, *“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”*
  - H. Then they will receive their rewards upon their resurrection. Luk.14:14, *“and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*
  - I. Jerusalem will be called the city of righteousness. Isa.1:26,27; 33:5,15; 62:1,2
  - J. Christ will be called *“the LORD our righteousness”*. Jer.23:6
  - K. Righteousness will characterize the new heavens and earth. 2Pet.3:13
- IX. Righteousness exalts a nation. Prov.14:34, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.”*; 16:12; 20:28; 25:5
- X. We are to declare God’s righteousness. Psa.35:28, *“And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness and Your praise all day long.”*; Psa.40:9,10, *“I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O Lord, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation.”*; Psa.51:14, *“Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, You God of my salvation; My tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.”*; Psa.71:15,16,24; 145:7

*“Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.”*  
Eph.6:14

*“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*  
Rom.14:17