

The Righteousness of the Law (Part 2)

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Father, thank You for Your word. Thank You that as we are going to minister this word that it will just touch people's lives. Thank You for sharing Your heart with us today, in Jesus' name, amen!

Last Sunday I spoke on the righteousness of faith, *What is the Righteousness of Faith?* We read from Romans chapter 4 and I am just going to recap a little bit on that and then we are going to talk a little about the righteousness of the Law.

What is the righteousness of the Law and the righteousness that the Pharisees basically walked in? We are going to explain some things that may be a little difficult to understand but I think it is important for us to understand this. Our Web Church is where we have our biggest impact, numbers wise, we see some people who just came into the message of Grace, say that some of the stuff is complicated and ask if it is needed to have all the finer details explained.

I believe that God has given different gifts to the body of Christ. There is the gift of a teacher, there's a gift of evangelist and all those kind of things. What I believe is Paul prayed and he said, "I pray that you will understand." Because when you understand something, it is so much easier in life. If you go and study something, it might be difficult in the study and it takes some time and it takes some sorting out of things but once you understand it, life's easy. If you don't understand how a car's engine works, and you just know that you switch it on and it starts and it goes, that's okay, you can still use the car. But should you understand every light that is on that dashboard and should you understand everything in that car, you will make so much better use of that vehicle and you will be able to use everything that it offers you.

It's the very same way with the Gospel. As we understand it better we find peace flood our heart and our minds. When hard times come or when good times are there, we just find the stability in our hearts.

What we said last Sunday is that the righteousness of faith is not God making you righteous when you believe. And we need to understand that. You know, we've had this concept of there was God and there was the Law and then when God looked at man, because man couldn't obey the Law, God saw man as a sinner and because God saw man as a sinner, God would punish man with death... or God would punish man with destruction and hell, or God would punish man. That is not the Truth! The concept that we've always had was God is in heaven and He is holy and He is righteous and He cannot tolerate anybody doing anything wrong.

There was a Law given and by this Law, God determined if you are righteous or not. Then if you could obey the Law, and you would be righteous, then you would qualify for life. Should you not be able to obey the Law then God judges you as a sinner and then He will kill you! He will destroy you! That is the concept that we have had so many times and that is the foundation from where, even many Grace preachers, preach the Gospel of Grace, where we look at how good Jesus is now for Jesus came and obeyed the Law on our behalf therefore we are now righteous, therefore God will not kill us.

That still leaves the subconscious mind with the concept of an angry God. It doesn't allow your heart to actually trust because you are kind of scared. It's like, what if I now do something that makes God angry again. When we talk about the righteousness of faith is, God comes and He tells man, "You know, you try to have life through the Law, (which I will explain today), but I promise you that I will give you life AS A FREE GIFT." That is the scenario that man is in. When Adam sinned, when the Law system came in, this is what happened. It was not man saying, "Well, I'm going to live by the knowledge of good and evil and then I am going to bless God with my obedience and then God will give me life through me obeying the Law." That's not what Adam said. What Adam said was, "I don't need God and I can have life, and eternal life, just by my works." That is what he basically said. He was substantiating himself from God. He was saying that, "I have enough good in me that I can just live a life that will result in eternal life." That is what Adam was saying and that way of thinking is not in line with what God thinks for God has the only life there is and unless He gives you His life, you can never have life. That is how it is. You know, if there's only one life, which is the life of God, the only way that you are going to have that life is if He gives His life to you or share in His life with you. Other than that, you are never going to have it!

So, here was a person with whom God shared His life. When God shared His life with him, He found that this life is really beautiful! He found that this life is attractive. He found that this life that God gave him gave him wonderful abilities, gave him clarity of mind. It gave him understanding. It gave him a lot of beautiful attributes. Then he got tricked into thinking that these attributes, which was a fruit of the life, can now be used to produce the life. That's where Adam fell and he believed the wrong thing right there.

So when God would look at man, He would say, "I see man trapped in a wrong belief. And since man is trapped in this wrong belief, his belief substantiates himself from the only life there is. That's why he dies." It's not because God killed him! It's not because God killed him because the belief system is one of, "I separate myself from the only life there is and I will produce eternal life by the attributes that life has given me." It's like working for a big company and they give you a car and they give you a lot of things and you are very happy for this and now you think by using the car and by having the nice lap top and by having all the flights and everything, I will create the company. No no, no. The company

gives you these things. You're not creating the company. The company is providing for you. You're doing a certain job but your life is from the company. I've seen it so many times, where people work for a company doing a certain job, maybe they are a mechanic and then they go and say, "Okay, I have the ability do to mechanic work", and then they go and start their own business and go bankrupt because the source was actually from this company. It's the very same way with the Gospel. We have developed a theology from the perspective of God looked at man. Adam and Eve, did not obey and then God got very upset and He said, "Well, now I am going to kill you!" From there we even have our Christian theology. We even have a certain amount of the Grace Gospel around that where Jesus said, "Well, they don't have to die. I will take their death ." And God said, "Since I've punished You, then I don't have to punish people anymore." And from there we live and then we struggle with certain scriptures in the Bible.

The righteousness of faith is this: God came to Abraham and He promised Abraham that He will make him a great nation and all the nations of the world will be blessed through him. He told Abraham to move to another place that God will show him and God had this plan, started this plan of blessing Abraham while was still offering to idols. So Abraham was not born in the Bible belt. He was, what we would say in our understanding, "He was a heathen!" He was serving foreign gods. He was not even worshiping God. He was just a sinner but then God came to Abraham and said, "I promise you that I will make you a great nation and all the nations shall be blessed in you." And what did Abraham do? HE BELIEVED GOD! He believed that God has the ability to bring that forth and he did not bring the deadness of his own body into consideration. So what he said is, "Well if I look at my ability I can never do it. If I look at my holy living well then I'm dead in my flesh I am dead! I cannot produce a child. It is impossible. I cannot produce fruit but God promised me fruit and I just believe that if He promised, let me put it this way, if he promised a sinner fruit, well then He will bring fruit in the sinner. And the Bible says, *It was accounted to him for righteousness.*

Righteousness also means TO BE AS YOU OUGHT TO BE! It's one of the meanings, to be as you ought to be. It also means "to have a right unto", but I want to deal with, "to be as you ought to be".

So when God promises you something and you are as you ought to be in the presence of that promise, JUST BELIEVE HIM! BELIEVE HE WILL BRING IT FORTH. THAT'S IT!

The promise He makes mankind, in Jesus: Jesus died. He took away the system that killed us. He took that system away. We were not enslaved under that system anymore. We didn't try to build up our own righteousness or the system where we tried to build up our own righteousness to have eternal life. He took that out of the way and the enslavement we had to it by the death of Jesus. **Then the Holy Spirit raised Jesus, as a human, from the dead and when He raised Him from the dead what happened in Christ becomes our promise.**

That means that when we see Jesus was raised from the dead, that is God's promise to you! He promises you that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, should you receive that Spirit, will raise you up in fruit in this life where you can have peace and joy and you can have the financial provision that's needed, the wisdom that is needed in this life -- - everything will be raised up by the Holy Spirit in you. That is God's promise!

It even says in John 15 that you cannot bear any fruit of yourself. *Abide in Me and I'll abide in you and that is how you will bear fruit.* You cannot bring forth that fruit by yourself. God promises you fruit! He who believes that is as he ought to be in the presence of God. It's called the righteousness of faith. The righteousness of faith, **AS YOU OUGHT TO BE!**

If God comes and He promises you and then if you want to convince Him that the promise should come forth and you try to convince Him by good works that the promise must come forth, then you are not as you're supposed to be! You are not walking in the righteousness of faith and it shall not be accounted to you as righteousness. The account to as righteousness **is not**, **"Now God decides you are righteous."** **No, it is when you believe Him!** That is a righteous act. If God tells you, "I'll give it to you for free" and you say, "Well, God, thank You!" That's why it says in Romans 4:5: *He who believes that God justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.* Why? Because the promise that God makes is, "I will justify the ungodly. I will justify the ungodly with eternal life." That's God's promise! When you believe it, then you become holy in your thought. Then your thoughts are sanctified, your belief is sanctified.

But what the Jews did, as we read in Romans 3 and Romans 10, what they did was, they said, especially in Romans 2, *"You Jews, you think that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness"* and they thought that the light of life was the Law. The light of life, that which would cause you to be as you ought to be in order to have eternal life was through the Law, by steal not, handle not, touch not, don't do this, don't do that, plus all the ceremonial laws, things like circumcision and all the Jewish sacrifices and all those kind of things. That's what the Jews thought. The Jews thought that they were the only nation, (and many of them still believe it today), that they are the only nation that ever had any instruction of God. They didn't believe any other nation had anything from God. They knew that God appeared to Abraham, made a covenant with Abraham, and they believed it was to Abraham and his seed as into the Jews. **But we know that the promise was to Abraham and THE SEED, JESUS CHRIST!** So, they believed it was just for the Jews. And then the Law was given to Moses. They saw, they knew there was a cloud on the mountain, the mountain was shaking. Moses went up there. He came down with ten commandments and the other things God told him to write down and he did all of that. They knew that God gave them that Law. **They thought that Law was the life! It was even called the way, the truth, and the life. But Jesus came and said, "I'm the**

Way, the Truth, and the Life!" He said, "You search the Scriptures to find eternal life but they speak about ME!" He said, "You are reading the Scriptures the wrong way. You are reading it to obey it so that you can have eternal life. No, the Scripture is not there for you to obey to have eternal life. **The Scripture is there to point to Me Who will give you eternal life FOR FREE!"** That's how we need to read the Scripture. We cannot read it in another way. It will not give us life. It will produce works' righteousness. It will produce effort and it will destroy your life! So, here the Jews come and they think that they are a guide to the blind and all those kind of things, but Jesus said, "If the blind leads the blind both will fall into a ditch!" Jesus calls them blind guides because they are blinded to Jesus in the Scripture and they think that those laws is what is going to give them life. It's not going to give them life!

Romans 10

: 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 to the righteousness of God.

: 4 For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believes.

What is he saying there? He is saying, "Listen, the Jews, and in this case, anybody that has the mentality that says, "As I obey certain principles, it will give me life." He says, "All of those are not submitting themselves to the righteousness of God." **God is as He ought to be.** God is Love. God is Kindness. God is Mercy and how would a God who is Kindness, is Mercy, be as He ought to be in the presence of a sinner? If God is as He ought to be in the presence of a sinner, He will declare forgiveness and He will promise him life, otherwise God is not as He ought to be. Do you think God is as He ought to be that if He is in the presence of sinners, He wants to kill a sinner? No, no, no! **God is as He ought to be in the presence of a sinner when He heals the sick, when He cleansed the leper, when He declares forgiveness.** Didn't Jesus come and show forth the righteousness of God? Jesus came and showed how righteous God is. God is so righteous, God is so as He ought to be, in line with love that He comes and gets baptized into the sin of the world, declares forgiveness to people and tells them, "I give you, My heart is to give you, the Kingdom! That He says to sinners! He loves the sinners. He feeds the sinners. He took bread and fish and multiplied it for them. He heals their sick and He rebukes those that condemn them! That's Jesus showing forth the righteousness of God! Now, it says that when we come and we want to work some principle based on commands in order to have life, be it life in this world in the sense of I am going to do these five steps so that I can become more generous or I am going to use these five steps so that I can become more loving, or whatever, what does it mean? You are not submitting

yourself to the righteousness of God. You're not submitting yourself to God that says, "I give it to you for free!" How do we submit to God Who makes you a promise? That submission is not, "Well, I'm willing to be Your slave!" No, that submission is, "Well, okay. If that's what You say, I submit. Give it to me then." That is submission. It's called BELIEF!

Now it goes on and says that the Jews have not submitted to the righteousness of God for **if they had submitted to the righteousness of God they will not follow the Law anymore for Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness.** What that means is.... (I hope I can explain this, thank You, Lord, that I can explain this, what I believe in my heart)... Nelson Mandela was the end of apartheid for everyone that believes it. That means that if you really believe what happened there He will be the end of your apartheid system on how you function in your house and on your farm and everything, if you really believe what happened there. We will see that you don't live the old way anymore. Why? Because you believed upon the new.

It says in Romans that now the Jews don't believe in the righteousness of God where God comes and promises it for free and they are now working up their own righteousness for they cannot submit to God saying, "I'm giving it to you for free." **What God is promising is not righteousness for free. What God is promising is eternal life!** When Jesus died, He took away the sin of the whole world by taking away the contract or the marriage we had with the Law. When that was ended, to **every** man was given innocence and forgiveness... EVERY MAN, but **when we believe that**, then we are as we ought to be in the presence of what He has promised us. **The fact that we believe is accounted to us for righteousness.** Under the Law, they believed that if I do all these things then I will be as I ought to be and I will have eternal life. **But what God says is, "If you can just believe My promise, you are as you ought to be and you shall be as you ought to be, having eternal life. Just believe in Me! Just believe that I can give you that life! Believe that I have already given you that life!" As we believe this, what do we receive? We receive the Spirit of God.**

What is the Spirit of God? He is called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit where God, in His holiness, comes and brings holiness as a free gift to every man. He fulfilled the Law that would declare us as sinners. He ends our marriage with slavery. He does all of that. He gives us everything for free! As we BELIEVE that, do you know what happens? Then that Spirit in which God operates enters our heart and we are now walking in the Spirit of our forgiveness. We are walking in the Spirit of our holiness. We are walking in the Spirit of the righteousness of God and then that Spirit, by its power, and the Holy Spirit proved His power by raising Jesus from the dead, and now the same thing happens to us by the Holy Spirit.

So, as we just walk in this Spirit of Forgiveness, the Spirit of Innocence, what happens to our life? We find the Spirit bearing His fruit in us. When we talk about

the righteousness of the Law, it talks about the way wherein the Jews ... and I want to touch on another point. There are two forms of righteousness in this righteousness of the Law. The one is the concept that says, "I will obey these works and by these actions in obeying this Law, I'm as I ought to be in order to have immortality and eternal life. That is one side of the Law but the Law has another righteous side which is the righteousness of the Law ascribed to Jesus. In other words, talking about the righteousness of God which is, this Law, let me explain it again, there is a part of it when it is read, it's read in a way where you want to work up your own righteousness by obeying the commands. But we know, and I've taught it many times here, that **the Law was actually written to Jesus ... not to us... to Jesus because Jesus said, "These things speak about Me. You search the Scriptures and you want to find life in them but they are speaking about Me."** So, when you read the Scriptures the way you are supposed to read it, then you will see that it is a command to Jesus on how to end sin and how to fulfill the whole system whereby people had life by their works and that's called the righteousness of God in the Law.

So, that righteous requirement of the Law was Jesus! The Law required Jesus! The righteous requirement of the Law was not your good work or your obedience to the Law. The Law does not point to you! It points to Christ! That's why Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You don't even believe the Law! That's why you can't believe Me for if you believed the Law you would have believed in me for this Law speaks of Me!" A person who really believes the Law will not believe that you have to do it to be righteous! You believe in Jesus for the Law points to Christ. Hallelujah!

That's what Jesus said to the rich man Lazarus. They said, "If a guy is raised from the dead they will believe Him." He said, "No, they have the Law and the prophets. If they can believe the Law and the prophets they will be raised, they'll have life." Then we think, "Oh, my goodness, they had to obey the Law!" No, no, no, because **the Law and the prophets talk about Jesus.**

When the Bible reads in Romans 8 where it says, *Where we, through the weakness of our flesh could not fulfill the righteous requirement of the Law, God came in the likeness of sinful flesh and fulfilled it for us for it was speaking about Jesus.* Glory to God!

I will end with a summary. This is what we say: When people died in Adam, or when Adam died, it was not on account of God killing Adam. It was on account of Adam partaking of something that cannot give him life. That's all! So when God said, "The day you eat thereof you will surely die", He was not saying, "The day you eat thereof, I will surely kill you." That's not what He said. He said, "This thing will destroy you!" Then when Adam partook of it, it became one with Adam, Adam removed himself from the Trinity so there wasn't a man in the Trinity anymore. So, all those born after Adam could not behold a man in the Trinity and believe that we are united with God. So God came, incarnated this

Adam in Jesus, died him away, was raised by the Holy Spirit and a man was put at the right hand of the Father. Now humans can believe that man is seated at the right hand of the Father. When they believed that, when you are persuaded of that, then the Spirit of Truth (because that is the Truth, there is a man in the Trinity), that Spirit of Truth enters your life and it raises you up and is called the very righteousness of God. When you are presented with this Truth and you walk in righteousness, you believe it. If you don't believe this Truth, you are standing unrighteous as pertaining to how you ought to be in the presence of this Truth. That doesn't mean that God will kill you. **It doesn't mean that God wants to destroy you. It just means that what you believe will destroy you.** That's all! For God is always loving, always caring and He's righteous towards who He is. That's it! That's why we can preach the Gospel! That's why we have Good News for people. That's why it is so important, even for me, that we believe the truth about this message.

I said to Helena, I think I put it on Facebook, over the week-end, as well, "I'm so glad that I'm alive!" I'm so glad I'm alive! If I live in South Africa, if we have bills to pay, if we have this, if we got that.... I don't care, but what an honor to be alive, to be a being that where God took dust and gave dust the opportunity to share in His life! What a privilege! What a privilege. Glory to God! And this Spirit that we can live in is the Spirit of innocence, it's the Spirit of forgiveness. That's what He's come to give us. If I look at my own life, and I said to Helena, "If we try to renew our mind with the Gospel but that is not God's command to us! The Bible doesn't say to be transformed by **you** renewing your mind. He says, "Be transformed by the renewal of the mind." Let me explain what he is saying there in Romans. He says, "*Be transformed by this new Truth that God brought.*"

So don't be transformed by trying to renew your mind. Hear what God tells you for it will renew your life. I found that as we listen to this Word, God renewed our mind. I tried to renew my mind when I sit in bed and I think, "Okay, I am the righteousness of God in Jesus... I am the righteousness of God in Jesus. He's taken away all of my sin." I try to work it up in my mind but I found after some years, God, as I just continually hear what He's saying, He renewed my belief. He renewed my way of thinking. The only thing from my side was to just say, "Lord, You promised it. You promised me new life. That means it's a new mind, that's a new heart. Doesn't the Bible say, "I will put a new heart in you!" So, why do we want to put a new heart in ourselves. Say, "Lord, whatever it takes for You to put a new heart in me, (and we know what it takes. It takes us hearing His love), let me hear it! **LOVE ME OUT OF THIS SITUATION LORD!** Love me out of this. Lord, I feel depressed. I feel stressed out but Lord, I want to just say, "The only way out of this is by You loving me out of this. It's by You bringing Your thoughts to my mind, by You bringing Your belief to my heart. And I'm willing! I'm not going to try to work up my own righteousness of the Law. My own, as I ought to be, in order to have life. No way! "

I am busy writing my book on finances. I have a lot of stuff on finances now

because that is what I am busy with all the time writing the book with editing it. I said there that when I basically realized the death that came to my life through the traditional tithing and sowing and reaping teaching and that kind of thing, I thank God that He set me free and gave me life. Then someone else came and put on Facebook that he has been tithing for I don't know how many years and he is so blessed. He has two sport cars and he has this and he has that, and a house and a farm and a great income and whatever.

I wrote to him and I said, "You know there are people who curse God, who don't even believe in God, who give nothing to anybody, that are so rich that they make you look like a beggar. So why are we going to try and compare testimonies here. Even the Muslims have testimonies for the rain of God falls on the just and the unjust. It's about what produces life in your heart where you can experience God's quality of life where you do not have to define yourself by sports cars, by motor bikes and high salaries for does Jesus not say that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions?"

I put this in his IN box but he didn't reply. Not that I say that he is bad or anything because I think it's a shock on your system if you come with scriptures proving Jesus is the tithe, proving the Scripture talks about Christ where we don't have to work the unrighteousness of the Law.

So, if we can't submit to God just promising it and we say, "God, if You promise it, it's mine!", then you haven't submitted to the righteousness of God and every effort you make after that is you working up your own righteousness. The prayer to pray for a person like that is, my prayer that they might be saved. Amen!

Let's pray:

Father, thank You so much for Your righteousness! Thank You, Lord, that we have the God that has loved man. When Adam accepted the System of Death, You said, "I will incarnate Myself into man and I will take the death of that System on Me and I will be raised by My Father and this will be the promise to every human, that even if you were bound by the System of Death it is taken away, I can raise you up into immortality and eternal life through My Spirit."

I thank You, Father, that we can embrace that promise. We say to You, today, Father, what You promised is true.

Father, I pray for every person who is here today. Thank You, Lord, that as they go home today, they will just go home with a heart that is just a little bit more renewed in Your logic, in Your Word.

I come and I thank You, Father, that I can stretch forth my hands as You stretch forth Your hands toward the people here. I declare the sick people healed in the name of Jesus. That the Resurrection power and the gifts of the Spirit manifest

right now in bringing healing to people's lives, providing finances for people , bringing peace and joy in people's lives right now!

I just feel that there are some people... with your family... obviously this might be a very general word but there is someone specific---- you just feel, "Man, this family of mine... I just can't love them. They hurt me so much, and all those kind of things..." I believe the Lord is saying to you: "Don't try and love them. Just believe My promise and you will find My love shed abroad in your heart for all people. Just say, "Father, Love me into loving others. The Bible says that he who doesn't love his neighbor doesn't know the love of God... has not become perfect in the love of God. Don't try to love your neighbor. Become perfect in how much God loves you and you will find that you will love your neighbor for of yourself you can do nothing... nothing.

Thank You, Father, for Your great love. In Jesus' mighty name! Amen and amen!
Glory to God!

(Order the CD's ... give it to some friends... listen to it again... **LET** the Word renew your mind.)