

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 2-14-10 PM
"FINALLY, THE GOOD NEWS"
ROMANS 3:21-23
#18 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Romans"

Genesis 6:8 (NKJV) "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NKJV) "⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)".

Job 9:2b (NKJV) "But how can a man be righteous before God?"

I. Righteousness Is Apart from the Law (v. 21a)

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV) "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."

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV) "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."

"At the point we have reached in our studies, the law has spoken. The unchangeable conditions have been set forth. The law has announced the just sentence of death and having spoken stands silent before the sinner who is now silenced forever. The law has no warrant to do anything for the sinner. The law cannot relieve his fears. The law cannot allay his grief. The law cannot pay his debts. The law has its horrible business to attend to. The law can do nothing but thunder: 'Thou shalt not sin' and, 'The wages of sin is death.'"

—Donald Barnhouse

II. Righteousness Is Built on Revelation (v. 21b)

Romans 4:6 (NKJV) "just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works."

Psalms 31:1 (NKJV) "In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness."

Psalms 51:14 (NKJV) "Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness."

Psalms 119:40 (NKJV) "Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness."

Isaiah 45:24a (NKJV) "He shall say, 'Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength.'"

Isaiah 46:12-13a (NKJV) "¹²Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who *are* far from righteousness: ¹³I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger."

Hebrews 11:6a (NKJV) "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*..."

III. Righteousness Is Obtained through Faith (v. 22)

Ephesians 2:9 (NKJV) "not of works, lest anyone should boast."

The three elements of faith:

- Knowledge of the truth
- Assent to the truth
- Trust in the truth

“We can put it in this way: the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself, and no longer looking to himself. He no longer looks at anything he once was. He does not look at what he is now. He does not look at what he hopes to be as the result of his own efforts. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ, and His finished work, and he rests on that alone.”

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“The faith of Paul and Luther was a revolutionizing thing. It upset the whole life of the individual and made him into another person altogether. It laid hold on the life and brought it unto obedience to Christ. It took up its cross and followed along after Jesus with no intention of going back. It said good-bye to its old friends as certainly as Elijah when he stepped into the fiery chariot and went away in the whirlwind. It had a finality about it. It snapped shut on a man’s heart like a trap; it captured the man and made him from that moment forward a happy love-servant of his Lord.”

—A. W. Tozer

*Jesus, Thy blood and **righteousness***

*My beauty are, my glorious **dress**.*

Mid flaming worlds in these arrayed,

With joy shall I lift up my head.

—Zinzendorf

When He shall come with trumpet sound,

O may I then in Him be found,

Dressed in His righteousness alone,

Faultless to stand before the throne.

—Edward Mote

Psalms 132:9 (NKJV) “Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy.”

IV. Righteousness Is Needed by All (v. 23)

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Matthew 5:48 (NKJV) “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Hebrews 1:3a (NKJV) “who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person...”

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,

Bruised and broken by the fall;

If you tarry till you’re better,

You will never come at all:

Not the righteous, not the righteous,

Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,

Nor of fitness fondly dream;

All the fitness He requireth

Is to feel your need of Him:

This He gives you; this he gives you;

Tis the Spirit’s rising beam.

—Joseph Hart