

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of August 7, 2022 A.D

The Righteousness that Comes from God and is by Faith

We were created by God for the purpose of living in a family relationship with Him for both time and eternity. God is holy and righteous. Therefore, if we are to have a family relationship with God, we too must become holy and righteous. Our righteousness and holiness are made possible only by faith in Jesus Christ.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21

1. What is the meaning of "righteous"? Can a God who is righteous by nature be the father of children who are unrighteous by nature? Does God have a father-child relationship with any humans? If so, how is such a relationship possible?

Read Philippians 3:7-9

2. Verse 7 refers to the terms "profit" and "loss". Profit means "advantage; gain; benefit." Loss means "a reduction or lessening" of something. Can a person become a follower of Christ without suffering a loss of something? If so, how? If not, must that "loss" be something which you previously counted as "profit"? Please explain your answers and include an illustration or an example of a "loss" which you have experienced as a result of becoming a Christian.
3. Read the first sentence of verse 8. In your opinion, is Paul being literal or is Paul exaggerating?
4. Do you know Jesus? If so, describe in detail the depth and the nature of your knowledge of Jesus. In your description, please state (a) how you acquired that knowledge of Jesus and (b) how knowing Jesus has changed your life.
5. Do you know Jesus as your Lord? If so, what has the lordship of Jesus cost you? If His lordship has cost you nothing, please explain why and how. If His lordship has cost you something, please explain what, how, and why. If you do not know Christ Jesus as your Lord: (a) why not? and (b) do you ever intend to do so and when?

6. Read verse 9. Focus on the words "be found in him." What does it mean for Paul to be found "in Christ"? Who is the person who will be doing the "finding" of Paul in Christ? Are you "in Christ"? Is Christ in you? If so, how is it apparent to other people that the life of Christ is alive "in you"?
7. Refer again to verse 9. "Righteousness" means: "acting in accordance with divine or moral law; free from guilt or sin; having right standing with God." The "law" refers to the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:1-17). Are you righteous? Have you kept and obeyed all of the Ten Commandments at all times? Are you "good enough" to stand in the presence of God, to live with God for eternity, and to never sin?

Read Romans 3:19-20

8. Who is the One and only moral law giver? How and why is "the whole world held accountable to God"? Please explain the meaning of verse 20. Does verse 20 apply to you? If so, why? If not, why not?

Read Romans 3:21-26

9. Refer to Romans 3:22-24. Please explain the meaning of verse 23. Please explain the meaning of verse 24.
10. The word "justified" means: "to have a right standing before God just as if you had never sinned." Refer to verse 25. Is God angered by sin? Does God "reveal and/or pour out His wrath" on sinners who have not been "justified"? Must a holy and righteous God condemn and punish all sin and all sinners?
11. Please explain the meaning of verses 25-26.

Read John 3:16-19

12. Please explain the meaning of John 3:16-19.

Consider: The only way for any person to have right standing with God is through personal faith in the shed blood of Jesus as the payment for the penalty of their sins. Whoever does not believe in Jesus for salvation from their sins stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. "You think about that." Amen.