

## Part 2– Receiving GOD’S own righteousness by faith The ONLY righteousness that will be allowed in God’s kingdom



March 2019  
Philip Shields  
[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

**Summary:** *Part 2 and conclusion to a very important topic. (Please be sure to hear and study Part 1 first.) In this lesson, we see the clear scriptures that the best we can do won’t fulfill God’s requirements of perfection for the Kingdom. Only God is perfect. Learn how our Father is offering us the only way we can be seen as perfect. In this teaching you will learn how that happens, when it happens, and why we don’t see perfection in any of us yet. Experience the JOY of salvation as you accept God’s incredible GIFT to you.*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Hello everyone. Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, Days of Matzah, will soon be here. And today’s topic is so appropriate for this season.

*BE SURE to print out the notes AND then listen to the audio. You will MISS a LOT of extras that are in the audio if you only look at the notes. And I will also include some things in the notes that won’t be in the audio, including all the handy scriptures.*

Today we’ll continue and wrap up the topic of how the best WE can muster up, the best righteousness we can do even with God’s Holy Spirit—will never meet the standard of the perfect righteousness required for God’s kingdom (Matthew 5:48; Eph 1:4, etc). God offers us a special gift that we have to be glad to accept by FAITH, we’re told, in implementing it in our lives.

When Christ presents His Bride without spot or wrinkle, and faultless, trust me – that won’t be because YOU have achieved that perfection on your own with God’s spirit. Something much bigger than you has happened.

So welcome everyone to Light on the Rock, where I delight in discussing topics that bring us into a closer walk with our Heavenly Father and his Son,

Yeshua the Messiah of Nazareth. We’re talking about one of the hardest concepts for people of faith to really absorb and accept: graciously accepting and receiving one of God’s greatest FREE gifts.

I do not believe anyone will be in God’s kingdom who has not accepted God’s righteousness by faith instead of trying to get in on their own merits. This sermon part 2 explains it in detail. **Be sure you’ve heard/studied Part 1 to lay the foundation first.**

This absolutely vital topic is simply is not being taught enough, or understood enough or practiced enough. Last time I showed you by many scriptures that our own efforts to be good won’t be good enough, even using the Holy Spirit in our lives. OUR best attempts to obey God, and our best “righteous deeds”, are but filthy menstrual rags, Isaiah says (Isa 64:6). **Paul** called his own best attempts at righteousness – dung. **Job** said his best was so vile, that he abhorred himself when he came into the perfect holy presence of his God. **I covered all that in part 1.** (Isaiah 64:6; Philippians 3:6-8; Job 40:4; 42:6)

So we better get it right, because I assure you, you and I are not better than Paul, Job or Isaiah. **(OPENING PRAYER).**

### **WHY do we need this sermon?**

**Last time we made it clear that**

- the Unrighteous would never be in the kingdom (1 Cor 6:9), so we better be righteous by the standard God requires.
- God’s own perfection is the standard (Matthew 5:48; 6:33; Phil 3:9-10).

**So are YOU that righteous – and will your righteousness be good enough for God’s kingdom?** *It not, we fall short and fail.*

**Righteousness defined:** A righteous life is one where we’re walking in the right path defined by God. In its simplest form “righteousness” means being right, doing right and living right. Who defines what is “right”? Surely it has to be our Maker, who knows the Way to live.

### **BEING RIGHTEOUS IN GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH WILL RESULT IN A CHANGING LIFE**

David said “all your (God’s) commandments are righteousness” (**Psalm 119:172**). God gave his ten commandments and other laws to show us how to

properly live, how to properly love him and one another. In other words, the commandments show us HOW to be righteous.

But David also asked God to direct him so he wouldn’t be ashamed when he looked at all God’s commandments (**Ps. 119:6**) as he knew he often didn’t measure up. Paul says the same – that even WITH God’s spirit, he still too often ALSO found himself doing what he hated (Romans 7:15-20).

The entire long Psalm 119 is about obedience and God’s way revealed by His law. *So a righteous person is obeying God, walking in God’s paths, resisting evil, fighting a vicious WAR against evil thoughts of sin, fear, worry, doubt – all of which are also sin.* BUT, try as we may, we all fail to perfectly obey all the time. We obey most of the time perhaps, but we still fail.

When we receive God’s own righteousness, it must result in a changed and changing, overcoming, growing LIFE. Even then, we still in this life will not be perfect yet – but at least we’re growing and becoming more like God. That’s what Romans 6 and 8 are largely about! I’ll explain later when the actual perfection occurs. But in the meantime, here on earth, NOBODY except Christ ever has, or ever will again, achieve sinlessness. That’s what Romans 3:10 is all about.

**But we’re in a very intense battle,** and most believers don’t seem aware of it! We need to fall to our knees when we find ourselves tempted to be verbally abusive, or to lust, or be covetous, or be greedy, or when we worry or fear... we must fight wrong feelings and deeds. We’re called “soldiers” of Christ and are called to fight the good fight. You’re not a “fighter”? Take it up with GOD. You must be a fighter against sin and evil.

**A righteous person is someone walking in Christ’s footsteps and keeping God’s commandments.** Read **1 John 2:3-6** again. And 1 John 3:7 says it’s the one who **practices** righteousness, as a way of life, who is righteous. We have to LET Christ live in us, obediently, and follow him, and live in HIS righteousness – to be righteous.

**1 John 3:7 CJB**

“Children, don’t let anyone deceive you — it is the person who keeps on doing what is right who is righteous, just as God is righteous.”

So any of you who might think that I’m turning anti-commandment in this 2 part sermon, think again. OUR righteousness in the end won’t measure up, will fall short of God’s standard, but please don’t interpret that to mean we

shouldn’t do our best – in Christ – to be walking God’s way, 24/7, after we’ve repented of past sins and not living a life of continually repeating old past sins.

**2 Corinthians 5:9-11**

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, **the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”

We’re judged according to what we do with what we’ve been given (Luke 12:48), and so know – we have to be producing good works and changing once God comes into our lives. If not, IS he in our lives?

Apostle Paul asks in **Romans 6:15-23** – “*What then, shall we SIN because we’re not under law but under grace? Certain NOT! (God forbid!)*”

Please carefully read **Rom 6: 3-6, 15-23** and how we are now debtors to – going forward – to God himself, to be “slaves of righteousness now, for holiness” (v. 19), once we come up from the watery grave of water immersion baptism.

*IF any of you believe that after repentance we can keep being the old kind of person we used to be and keep doing regularly the sins we used to live in – you’re in for a rude awakening. In fact, a person like that has not repented. NO, we have to fight sin; we have to change now with God’s spirit.*

MY concern is that too many conservative sabbath-keeping believers know all about fighting sin and doing our best – but don’t understand the FREE GIFT of God that is CREDITED to us by faith. Because again, your very best – won’t be good enough! EVER! Some of you still think you can work yourself into perfection. You cannot. I cannot. NONE of us can. The only acceptable true righteousness has to be received from God by faith, and I gave a ton of scriptures on that last time. So please be sure you’ve heard Part 1.

Paul makes that so clear in Philippians 3.

**Philippians 3:8-11, especially verse 9**

“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** (KJV: **dung**), 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;**

**10 that I may know Him and the power of HIS resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”**

**Romans 3:21-23**

“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; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Very clear, isn't it?

**TWO Filthy DITCHES we must BE SURE we're NOT IN**

MOST believers I know are falling into one of 2 ditches, and both are dirty, stinking, rotten ditches because neither one is right, neither one will help you be righteous enough to be in the Kingdom.

**Ditch 1 -- DIY (do it yourself) salvation.** They acknowledge they have to accept Christ's sacrifice at Calvary, for past sins, but after that we must use the Holy Spirit to get closer and closer to God's standards until we “make it”, or – I guess – are *close enough* that God just makes up the difference. This ditch at least acknowledges we must be changing, growing, overcoming and obeying the commandments. These accept God's grace at crucifixion but to me, appear weak on grace after that.

But, people in this ditch seem to know little about, nor are willing to accept, that God is offering **HIS very OWN** righteousness to all who will accept the GIFT of HIS righteousness, as I covered last time. Romans 5 in particular is all about that.

Those in this ditch accuse me of making salvation too easy. So these people STRIVE to become righteous enough “to make it” – but they know they fail, so they live in a spiritual life of failure and depression. OR, if they fail to see they're not righteous enough, it becomes self-righteousness. Paul said he rejected his own perfect keeping of the law and called it dung, as it failed to measure up to God's perfection. Your Righteousness is not better than Paul's,

my brothers and sisters (once again – Phil 3:6-11). YOUR best, even WITH God's spirit, will fail as Paul explained about his own failings.

**Ditch 2—the “we do nothing, God does everything, once saved, always saved” group of people.** They do accept the grace of God and some even claim to accept the gift of God's righteousness ... but they fail to comprehend the numerous scriptures which say we must not take God's grace lightly for He considers it trampling the Son of God underfoot.

**Hebrews 10:26-31 (CITE)**

**“For if we sin willfully (deliberately – CJB) *after*** we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, **and fiery indignation** which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, *will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of GRACE?* 30 For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” 31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*”.

**Some in Ditch 2 believe** they can remain as they once were, in their life of sin, for they've accepted Christ as Savior – but then nothing changed in their lives, their marriages, their conduct and attitudes. And some feel that is OK. We cannot go on being the way we were before Christ came into our lives.

God *calls* me “just as I am” – but he definitely wants us to be washed up clean in the blood of the Lamb of God, and to witness to the risen Christ living His obedient and loving life all over again inside of us by His spirit.

We have to use God's gifts and put them to work. Revelation 2 and 3 churches are told that Christ knows their works. We're not *saved* by works, but by grace. But we're called to do good works after we've received God's grace, proving God is working in us. **Ephesians 2:8-9** is clear: we're saved by grace, not by works, lest anyone should boast. Yes, that's correct. But continue reading v 10 – “for we are HIS workmanship, created by God FOR good works...”

If your neighbor needs help, you help. You do something. You see a need, and you do something about it. Isn't that what Christ says in Matthew 25? “I was in prison, I was hungry, I was naked... and you DID something.”

It is NOT OK to think we are God's children but don't live and behave as God's children. ONLY those LED by God's spirit are his children (Romans 8:14). True family members of Christ are seeking and doing the Father's will – Yeshua said so himself (Matthew 12:48-50). Jesus said “If you love me, KEEP my commandments” (John 14:15).

God must see good works as a result of his salvation. Remember we're saved by grace. But we're rewarded by works. Reward is not the same as salvation, but reward has to do with what we'll be doing in the kingdom. We need to be producing some good works (Revelation 2-3 churches “I know your works”).

**These “2<sup>nd</sup> ditch folks”** often ignore the many, many scriptures by Christ himself, and Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude that WARN of this license that will end you thrown into the Lake of FIRE if you continue an unchanged life. 2<sup>nd</sup> ditch folks should read **1 John 2:3-6; 3:7; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; the whole short letter of Jude, 2 Peter 2-3, Hebrews 3-4** and how we will end up like the Israelites who died in the wilderness if we don't change. There are so many scriptures that warn us – we need to put sin out of our lives, EVEN after, maybe *especially* after, we've deeply repented, been baptized and received God's Holy Spirit (Col 3, the whole chapter, 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

#### **Jude v 4**

“For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness** and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The ungodly will NOT inherit the Kingdom of God – **1 Cor. 6:9**. This is repeated in **Gal. 5:19-21 – those who practice the works of the flesh** – will not inherit the kingdom of God. And there are many, many more verses like **Ephesians 5:3-5** – that immoral and impure people will not inherit the kingdom. You should read that passage!

(The audio discusses the dinner at the Pharisee's home, and the sinful woman who wept at his feet... “She loves much for she has been forgiven much” Luke 7:46-50)

SO clear: stay the way we used to be, and you'll not be in the kingdom of God.

Let me be clear: So if your life is still full of fear, doubt, worry (terrible sins), or you still get drunk, watch porn, or use God's name in vain, or cheat on your wife or husband, or cheat on your taxes – if you or I keep doing these things, we will NOT be in the kingdom of God – or RIP OUT much of the scripture!



If you used to do these things, but then repented and stopped, those sins have been washed away. I'm not referring to you but to those who think they can go on as the sinner they once were and believe all's OK.

People who continue to live in a life of deliberate sin, cannot have, cannot be displaying God's own perfect righteousness, and will not be in God's kingdom. For example, if you're living common-law – which used to be called “living in sin” – you have to separate or get married, but not keep living in sin.

### **The Messiah's AMAZING 2-FOLD SAVING LIFE**

Let's move on. Many do not grasp that Christ's work as our Savior was at least 2-fold. He not only saved us by his crucifixion on the tree at Calvary – but after his resurrection continues to save us day by day. This is KEY.

- 1. MOST believers can grasp that all their sins are paid for, the sin debt erased, by Christ's sacrifice at Calvary. That's super! We get that. Most of us accept that. That's step 1 at Calvary.**

ALL sins are removed (**1 John 1:7, 9**) for everyone who truly repents, all over the world, no matter what your sin was (except blaspheming the Holy Spirit). Your better-lived life than mine, your few sins – guess what? – they still required the very same death penalty all *my* horrible sins required. Our sins require either my death, your death, -- or the death of Christ for us if we humbly cry out. (So never think you're better than someone else or that you're not 'as bad as' someone else. Same penalty means your sins ARE as bad as someone else's.)

And if ALL repented-of sins are washed away – hear me, you who languish in jails and prisons either literally for your serious sins and crimes or jails of your own making in your own mind – open your eyes, look up, see and accept your Savior. Don't let his death be in vain for you.

Yeshua was the Lamb of God “who takes away the sins of the WORLD” (John 1:29). “For God so loved the world” all humanity. John 3:16.

God is not just God of the Jews, but God of all (Romans 3:29).

I welcome all you who are Gentiles. Please – write down and **read Romans 13:9-13** – Praise our Lord, all you Gentiles. You have a God, you have a Savior too, and it's the same God and same Savior the Jews can have if they will accept the true living God and accept his true Son of God who died for them



too! We are all of one blood. We all come under the one blood of our Savior too – brown, black, white – doesn't matter. We're all offered salvation when we're called and we respond. But all of us – Jews or Gentiles – have to respond! We have to repent and accept Christ as the Son of God who died for us and was resurrected for us.

The notion there are multiple ways to God's presence is false. There is ONE way: through the Son of God. HE is the Way, the Truth and the life. NO one comes to the Father except by Him (John 14:6).

(Audio has a section addressed to Jews imploring them to open their eyes to their Savior from the tribe of Judah.)

I think most of you get that.

**But now here's the problem. We've repented, we've been forgiven. We've accepted the Passover Lamb of God. But what happens next?**

**LIFE happens.** We have to live minus the sin debt already paid by Christ, and that's great – but we soon find, even with God's Spirit, we still too often aren't perfect – which is the required standard for the kingdom.

What comes after **Passover** (repentance, accepting the Lamb of God)? The **Days of Unleavened Bread**. Leaven often is used to picture sin. We have to start a life of sin being kept out of our lives. The Unleavened Bread we eat pictures Christ. We take Christ into our lives and HE nourishes and feeds us. In the meantime, we've thrown out all traces of leavening out of the house.

That leavened bread we throw out pictures our old self, not just sin – but represents OUR lives. It pictures you and me! Our old self - that has to be rejected and thrown out.

That's why Paul says HE Died, and says "for YOU died" and our new life is that which is in union with Christ Jesus (Gal. 2:20; Colossians 3:3-5). That's all clearly spelled out also in Romans 6:1-6.

**STEP 2 what Christ DOES: HE WAS RESURRECTED TO LIVE AGAIN IN US.** We've been called to be WITNESSES of the risen **Christ** by demonstrating he is ALIVE, by how dramatically he lives in US, right now. God now sees Christ and his righteousness, instead of you. And Christ, we're told, fulfilled the 10 commandments and all the law, perfectly. (**Rom 8:3-4** – which we'll read shortly).

Paul made clear that Christ’s sacrifice removed the sin penalty (death) as well as God’s wrath, his anger, on us for breaking his law (Romans 5:6-9). In **Romans 5:6-9** we’re told that Christ died for the ungodly (v6). That demonstrated God’s own love to us in that he sent Christ to die even while we were still sinners (v.8). At that point – we were “justified by his blood” (v8) and saved from God’s wrath through Christ. So we were reconciled and made right with God by Christ’s blood.

But then we have to LIVE – and we find ourselves failing! NOW what?

***God didn’t just forgive you – and then forget you. He wants Christ to live again, this time IN YOU, living Christ’s OBEDIENT LIFE in you all over again.***

But then what?

**Romans 5:9-11**

“Much more then, having now been justified [declared right] by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, **much more, having been reconciled, we shall be SAVED by His LIFE.**

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Reconciled and justified by his death – but saved by his LIFE. Christ LIVES.

*What could we be experiencing in righteousness, holiness, power, miracles – if we would just believe this and LET Christ reign in us. And like v 11 says, this should give us great JOY to be reconciled to our Father in Heaven because he now sees no sin – because of our repentance and because now the resurrected Yeshua lives in us, guiding us, leading us – if we will submit and listen to him and FOLLOW his lead.*

***Our hard work now is to do everything in our power to abide in him, to live with him and in him and he live in us, to seek God, to pray daily, to stay in touch, to be aware of the presence of Christ... and LET him live in us. John 15:4-6 says if we abide in Christ (v5), we WILL bear much fruit. That means we’re changing into a different kind of person than we used to be.***

No wonder Paul said this:

**Philippians 3:9-11**

**“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; 10 that I may know Him and the POWER of HIS resurrection,** and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Paul said there's POWER in Christ's own resurrection. WHY? Because he now is supposed to be living in us and we in him. We've become a part of HIM, his very body. Not a single part of his body is unholy. Not you, not me. He touches us and cleanses us, heals us, makes us whole spiritually – as he did lepers.

That's why Paul says HE, Paul, no longer lives, but the life he lives is Christ, and FAITH in him (**Gal. 2:20-21**) because it is by the grace of God, and the LIFE of Yeshua, that we are saved. V 21 tells us not to set aside God's grace, for if righteousness comes through the law, Christ died in vain.

(Audio has much more: goes into how all parts of Christ's body is holy. And no part of the body of Christ is unholy and how Christ touches our lives.)

Yes, we MUST walk as He walked, obediently (**1 John 2:3-6**), but since WE fail, and HE didn't, in the end, it is Christ's perfect obedience that God sees. If Christ has come into your life, He will want to walk like he did before: obediently. If you're not walking obediently, Christ is not living/walking in you. But someone like Paul sees they fail – “Oh WRETCHED man that I am, who will save me from this body of death?” –end of Romans 7.

**YESHUA THE Messiah IS, AND MUST BE, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

(Audio has a lot more in this section)

**Romans 8:1-5**

“There is therefore now NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

**3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, GOD DID by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,**

**4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in US** who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (Read it several times)

**Let's review again a few verses we used last time:**

**1 Corinthians 1:29-31** read this slowly a few times.

“...that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are **in Christ Jesus, who BECAME FOR US wisdom from GOD — AND righteousness** and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, **let him glory in the Lord.**” (**vs. glorying in how good you have become yourself**)

Did you get that? Christ became wisdom and righteousness FOR us. It's right there — 1 Corinthians 1:29-31.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

“For He (God) made Him who knew no sin (Christ) **to be sin for us, that WE might become the righteousness OF GOD — in Him.**”

**There's a big swap going on here. We give God our sins — and God gives us his free Gift of HIS own righteousness.**

We read last time how God wants to give us a GIFT that is rarely preached: the GIFT of HIS righteousness by faith in Christ.

**Romans 5:15-19**

“**But the FREE GIFT is not like the offense.** For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God **and the GIFT** by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

**16 And the GIFT is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the FREE GIFT which came from many offenses resulted in justification.**

**17 For if by the one man's offense (Adam) death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

**18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one**

Man's righteous act **THE FREE GIFT** came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

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

Did you get that? Christ became wisdom and righteousness FOR us. It's right there – 1 Corinthians 1:29-31.

“being filled with the **fruits of righteousness which are BY Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God”.

### **HOW Christ's perfect life covers our imperfections**

**So HOW does this happen? Paul uses accounting terms – credited, imputed.** If God pays our sin debt for us in Christ's death – that's like cancelling all our financial debts. We're released from debtors' prison. So we owe nothing more – but we're still BROKE (we have no righteousness yet of our own and neither would it measure up!). So our debt is gone but neither do we have any money. We have no credit. So we have no money to – as it were – pay our mortgage, buy gas or food – and we'll be in debt again...unless... Someone fills up our checking account.

**And that is what GOD does! We're going to read how He GIFTS us HIS righteousness in Christ, covers us with that, and credits our “spiritual bank account” with HIS perfection.**

Those of you in Ditch 1, the Do-it-yourself salvation” folks, don't like someone else doing something for you, and that becomes your idol, your god, your sin – not humbling yourself enough to accept God's free gift.

**This is very hard for some to do. It's living by FAITH. Even this righteousness of God is by FAITH (we're told that repeatedly).**

**Let's see the scriptures of this righteousness being CREDITED to us.**

**Rom 3:20-26 talks about how it has to be God's righteousness. “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; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being **justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, **through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness**, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, **26** to **demonstrate** [GOING FORWARD] at the present time **His righteousness**, that **He** might be just and the **justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**" (*VS. FAITH and consternation over our own efforts that fall short*)

*So verse 25 – OUR old sinful way of living is passed over upon our repentance. V. 26- so going forward we are displaying HIS righteousness by our faith in Yeshua.*

*Now let's get into the accounting words: "credited, accounted to", or even "imputed".*

*Are you willing to let God credit or account you with **HIS** righteousness – or will you reject his gift? Go back to what Paul said in Phil 3:9—"I DON'T want my own righteousness from the law, but the righteousness of GOD by faith..."*

#### **Romans 4:1-4**

"What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For **if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about**, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it [HIS BELIEF] was ACCOUNTED to him for righteousness.**" 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt."

#### **Rom. 4:5-8**

"But to him who does not work but **believes** on Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is accounted for righteousness**, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man **to whom God IMPUTES righteousness apart from works**: [did you catch that? God imputes....]

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man **to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.**"



[Just as God no longer imputes our sin to us, He does now impute His righteousness.]

**Continuing Romans 4:9-15**, especially verse 9

9“Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? **For we say that faith was accounted [or imputed] to Abraham for righteousness.**

ACCOUNTED, CREDITED, IMPUTED – all these are like financial statements and words. When we accept Christ by faith, something has been put INTO our account.

When you and I are forgiven all our sins, we now have no sins, but we don’t have any of God’s own righteousness yet either! So if we can compare sin to debt, and righteousness of God to money – it’s like God says, “Give me all your sin. Great, now though you used to owe someone a billion dollars, now you are debt free”. But you still have to pay your bills, pay your mortgage, buy food, gas for the car, etc etc. and you’re broke. So God says --

“I’ve forgiven your past debt (“sins that are past” **Romans 3:25**), and going forward, I’m putting a billion dollars into your checking account (in my analogy \$ are to stand for his righteousness), the good life of Yeshua himself being credited to you (**Romans 8:3-4; Phil. 3:9; 1 Cor. 1:29-30; 2 Cor. 5:21**). **Rom 3:25-26.**

Here in Romans 4, Paul goes ON to make clear that because Abraham believed God, that what happened for Abraham can happen to all of us. We can all have righteousness imputed to us because of our faith in Christ, just like what happened to Abraham! **Romans 4:10-11** – the end says, that Righteousness can be imputed to them also” – other uncircumcised Gentiles.

**Romans 4:16-21 continues... how Abraham and Sarah believed God’s promises and SO their faith allowed God to credit his own righteousness to them. That’s why God’s righteousness is called “the righteousness of faith”.**

***Now, are you ready for the next verse?***

**Rom. 4:22-25**

**“And therefore it [his faith/belief] was ACCOUNTED to him** for righteousness. [Something was put into his righteousness bank]

**23 Now it was NOT written for his sake alone that it (righteousness) was IMPUTED to him, 24 but ALSO FOR US.**



**It [righteousness] shall be IMPUTED TO US who believe in Him** who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

***God paid off our sin debt, and then on top of that – stage 2 of what Christ did – God accounts/imputes Christ's own perfect life into our life, over us, in us, and that is what God sees.***

***Read and re-read Romans 4:21-25, Phil. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:21 until you see it in clear black and white.***

***What that means: We either will have God's perfect righteousness GIVEN freely to us if we ask, believe, accept it – and value it – OR we're on our OWN with the best we can do. Good luck with that. I don't want the best I can do. I want the best God can do.***

**NIV in Rom 4:22-25**

“This is why **"it was CREDITED to him as righteousness."** 23 The words "it was credited to him" ***were written not for him alone, 24 but also FOR US, to whom God will CREDIT righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.*** 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

He died at Calvary for our sins to be absolved and removed. We all get that and accept that part, what I call Stage 1. But many of you have trouble accepting the next part – Stage 2. That going forward, he was resurrected for our justification (righteousness) so that HIS life is what God sees after we repent.

We have to now be part of HIS RESURRECTION – AND LET HIS perfect life be lived in us for our justification (made right in God's sight going forward). **Don't stop at Calvary.** That removes our sins – but does not cover us going forward – perfectly, righteously. It's the RISEN Christ in us that makes us Justified (Rom 4:25). THAT'S WHY Romans 5:10 says we shall be saved by his LIFE.

**How does Paul then resolve this?**

**Romans 5:1-2**

“Therefore, **having been justified by FAITH,** we have peace with God **through our Lord** Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have

access ***by faith*** into this ***grace*** in which we stand, **and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**"

*The result is peace and JOY in your salvation through faith in Yeshua. And you and I will now be living an OBEDIENT life – IF, IF we seek Christ daily, IF we abide in him, IF we open the door of our lives to him.*

As Yeshua said:

**John 15:4-6**

***"Abide in Me, and I in you.*** As the branch *cannot* bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, ***neither can you, unless you abide in Me.***

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. ***He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.***"

*And if Messiah lives in us, we will be walking more and more as HE walked. People will increasingly see his life, not ours, like Col 3:3 and Gal 2:20-21 say. We will still stumble in sin from time to time, but no longer as our ongoing way of life.*

Christ will live obediently in us, if we truly let Him be Lord and master of our lives! It will *be Him doing it*; not me! He will live in us the way He lived the first time – obediently!

**Cite 1 John 2:3-6**

***"Now by this we KNOW that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."***

***HOW is the FRUIT of righteousness developed? Yes, through the Holy Spirit... but....BY Jesus Christ.***

**Philippians 1:9-11**

***"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness WHICH ARE BY Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."***

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But WE all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the **SAME image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**”*

One way to focus on Yeshua is by hearing his word every day. Every day we’re reading, hearing and talking about it in our daily Bible study and prayer.

Do you all get it now? Are you righteous – or unrighteous? When you understand that **ONLY** God’s perfect, flawless righteousness will count.. the answer is yes and no. Yes, I’m righteous by God’s own righteousness imputed to me. NO, I’m not perfectly there YET, but will be when I’m changed to spirit, as we’ll see.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

**11 And such WERE some of you. But YOU were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were JUSTIFIED [declared RIGHTEOUS] in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

So if you really accept the teaching of God’s own righteousness given you as His GIFT to you, credited/accounted to you – you and I can have this JOY and peace knowing we are seen as Christ HIMSELF. You’ll start experiencing more of the “JOY of salvation” and less of the “I’m never going to make it” depression.

**Our old flesh has died, been cut off. We died,** and the life we live now is in Christ, by faith. Be sure to tell God you WANT his goodness, HIS righteousness. Then accept it, with JOY.

**HUMILITY TO ACCEPT GOD’S GIFT**

Actually practicing and believing this will be incredibly hard. Most of us don’t like free gifts. We’d rather EARN what we’re given. When it comes to salvation and righteousness – trying to earn it ends in our death, because we’ll fail.

Swallow your pride and accept this free gift of God.

Actually truly living by faith – including this part of it – is incredibly hard. When you live by faith, you're giving up control of your life. GOD is now running things. Living by faith means we learn to trust him and let go of our fears, doubts and worries.

It's like trying to get a 3 or 4 year old to trust you in the swimming pool and to trust that you're not going to drop her and let her drown. But what do they do at first? They grasp on to you like their life depends on it. And they'll never learn to swim until they trust you and do what you tell them to do – which includes “Let go – I've got ya! I'm right here.”

### **WHERE is that perfect RIGHTEOUSNESS in my Life?**

BUT - some of you will still sin the sin of worry. “WHERE is that PERFECT righteousness in my life? I don't see it yet.

- Remember Paul also wrestled with that – “Oh WRETCHED man that I am...”
- **Remember that it's Righteousness by FAITH.** Faith is the evidence of things NOT SEEN yet. Heb 11:1. We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). WE don't see it yet, but God sees it.
- **Most things by faith are not instant** – but over time. God's promises of countless descendants to Abraham – were not seen until long after Abraham died, for example. But in the resurrection he will see the millions and millions of his descendants. And spiritually speaking, everyone in the resurrection will be children of the promise and so all of them will be his “kids” too.
- **And living by faith – including for His Righteousness – is HARD.** Living by faith means you're giving up control of your life and submitting to God's will.

***WHEN will you and all be able to see God's own perfect perfection in you? When this corruption shall put on incorruption.***

#### **1 Corinthians 15:50-53 cite**

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; **nor does corruption inherit incorruption.** 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed** — [this is more than just the make-up of our composition]

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**. 53 *For this corruptible must put on incorruption*, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

### **1 John 3:2-3**

“Beloved, NOW we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM (GOD)**, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 *And everyone who has THIS hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*”

*There's no “terror of the Lord” here, when we're submitting to the holiness, the righteousness, the zeal and will of our GOD!*

### **Jude 24-25**

***Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And TO PRESENT YOU FAULTLESS*** before the presence of His glory with **exceeding JOY**, 25 ***To God our Savior***, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, both now and forever.

*Do you really think- - that on our own imperfect human efforts, we'll ever become faultless? No, but with Christ's righteousness being the one we're credited with, His perfection becomes ours. It is credited, imputed, and accounted to us. But NOT unless we accept that GIFT graciously! And NOT unless we give up a life pattern of sin. We have to give that up.*

**So – you get it now?**

**On our own efforts even WITH God's spirit, we will never measure up. But we are now in Christ. And it's HIS life that God sees.**

**And we've now accepted this wonderful gift of God. If you don't, then you better be PERFECT, every day – and you know better. You know you can't be. So accept the Gift graciously.**

**And we're now ULTRA-AWARE of the WAR, the FIGHT. we've been called to be a part of. It's RAGING all around you, around the world and around you! Spiritual forces in high places are battling for you and against you.**

Let's do our part and

- Let's actively and consciously put on the armor of God every single day

- Let’s open the lines of communication with our Captain of our Salvation by putting social media down and getting more on our knees in prayer.
- Let’s be intent to listen to the words of our God. Listen.
- Let’s be more aware of our temptations to fear, to worry, to lash out, to covet, lust, or be loosey-goosey with God’s sabbath or God’s name. We’re overcoming alcoholism and gluttony. We’re not flirting – or worse- at work anymore. We’re changing.

And step by step, we are beholding ourselves in a mirror being transformed more and more in to the image of Christ himself (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

Closing prayer.