

## RIGHTEOUSNESS BY GRACE (Outline)

Romans 3:21-22: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; <sup>22</sup>Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:"

We need a righteousness that equals God's in order to be accepted before Him. Because of our sin, the greatest thing we need is acceptance, or right-standing with God.

A righteousness that is according to the law is a righteousness of doing, earning, and achieving in order to be accepted by God.

The kind of righteousness that God offers us is a righteousness not according to doing or according to law but one that is through faith in Jesus Christ's righteousness.

God offers this righteousness to all people because all have sinned and come short of God's standard of perfection.

Philippians 3:9: "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

There are two kinds of righteousness:

1. The righteousness of man is the good works that he can do. It will not make him accepted by God.
2. The righteousness of God is God's own righteousness. It is His acceptance of us based on our belief in what Jesus provided through His death on the cross: forgiveness of sins and imputing to us a righteousness that equals the law.

Isaiah 64:6: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Not our sin, but our righteousness, our good works, are as filthy menstrual rags.

Hebrews 6:1: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." We need to turn from our good works and our sin unto God for His mercy. Put your faith, dependence, and reliance in Jesus.

Genesis 15:6: “ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” This Old Testament scripture describes how Abraham believed God, Who then imputed righteousness to Abraham’s account.

Romans 4:23-25: “ Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; <sup>24</sup>But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; <sup>25</sup>Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

Righteousness will be imputed to your account also, if you believe in Jesus and what He did for you. You also have right-standing before God when you believe in Jesus.

Romans 5:17: “ For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”

God offers a GIFT of righteousness (right-standing before God). It cost God the life of His Son but is made available freely to us through faith in Jesus.