

EPISTLE OF 2 PETER
WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS
PART 2—THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
2 PETER 1:1

Introduction

Last week we began looking at what the **APOSTLE PETER** wrote here in the *first chapter* of his *second EPISTLE to BELIEVERS*. Specifically we're looking at **"WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS"**

Understand that the things we see here are some of the things that are in the possession of **EVERY CHILD OF GOD**—that is, **EVERY PERSON WHO HAS TRULY BELIEVED ON CHRIST** (i.e. Those who have **TRUSTED IN CHRIST ALONE FOR SALVATION!**)

Those two things, though expressed differently, mean the same!

Last week we began by looking at just one thing...the very first thing mentioned here in *verse 1* where we saw that—**BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN "A LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH"**

There is no **FIRST CLASS** and **ECONOMY CLASS** when it comes to **SALVATION. WE ALL GOT THE SAME PRECIOUS FAITH!**

Remember that each **BELIEVER'S FAITH IS PRECIOUS** whether or not they recognize all of its **PRECIOUS NATURE** or not! As we live our lives we come to know more and more about our **FAITH AND ITS PRECIOUS NATURE**. But we won't really understand the fullness of that **PRECIOUSNESS** until we are with the **LORD!**

Ephesians 2:6–7— [GOD]...hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Of course we need to understand that comes our way by way of the second thing we see here which is the topic of our message today:

BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN "THE VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THROUGH OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST!" (Vs 1)

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I. LET'S UNDERSTAND THE DEFINITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

If we're going to talk about **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, then we need to have it **DEFINED** for us as to what **RIGHTEOUSNESS** is!

The Lexham Bible Dictionary gives this definition—
"The quality, state, and characteristic of being in the right."
It not only speaks of **WHAT ONE IS**, but of **WHAT ONE DOES!**
i.e. ONE WHO IS RIGHTEOUS, DOES RIGHT!

RIGHTEOUSNESS, according to the **SCRIPTURE**, is one of **GOD'S UNCHANGEABLE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES!**

SCRIPTURE reveals to us that **GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN, HE IS NOW**, and **HE ALWAYS WILL BE RIGHTEOUS** and therefore **ALL OF HIS ACTS** are **ALWAYS ACCORDING TO RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Psalms 11:7— "For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness..."

Psalms 116:5—"Gracious is the LORD, and righteous..."

Psalms 145:17—"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."

When **GOD the SON, JESUS CHRIST**, came into this world **HE** came to **SHOW US THE FATHER!** (And always remember that **JESUS CHRIST** is the **EMMANUEL...GOD WITH US!**)

And one of the ways **JESUS** revealed the **FATHER** was in **HIS RIGHTEOUS WAYS!** **JESUS** was the **ONLY RIGHTEOUS MAN** from the very moment of **HIS CONCEPTION** by way of **HIS VIRGIN BIRTH!** [*John 1:14— "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*]

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II. LET'S UNDERSTAND THERE IS A STANDARD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Wouldn't you agree that having a **RIGHT STANDARD** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** is important!?

There are **STANDARDS** maintained for a lot of things in our lives!
(e.g. I read where there is an "International Bureau of Weights and Measures" located in France that maintains the global standards of mass and volume. It establishes and maintains those standards for those involved in international trade.)

(e.g. There is also an "Office Of Weights and Measures" in our own country that maintains the standards of measure for all kinds of things we buy and use in our every day lives. For instance, when we pump gas by the GALLON we want to make sure we are getting a STANDARD GALLON!)

If we want to understand our own personal **RIGHTEOUSNESS** or **lack thereof**, we **MUST** have a **STANDARD** and compare ourselves to that **STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Now, understand that without a **STANDARD** to go by, one's definition of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** is just as good as another's!

2 Corinthians 10:12—“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

But GOD has a STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS! THE LORD GOD, ALONE, DEFINES what that IS, and HIS STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS HIMSELF! (HUMANLY SPEAKING IT IS HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST!)

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III. LET'S UNDERSTAND MAN'S PROBLEM WITH GOD'S DEFINITION AND STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Now, though we might look pretty good when we compare ourselves to someone other than **THE STANDARD**, that's not a wise thing to do because we are going to be **JUDGED BY THE STANDARD!**

And the **BIBLE** is very clear that **NOT ONE** of us measures up to **GOD'S DEFINITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** when compared to **GOD'S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—who is JESUS CHRIST!** And that's a **PROBLEM** for **ALL** of **MANKIND!**

Romans 3:10—“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (“sinned” = “missed the mark” + “come short” = not fitting up to the STANDARD)

To **NOT FULLY MEASURE** up to **GOD'S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** is to “**come short**”. And, humanly speaking, only the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** has ever measured up! And listen that is how **HE** was able to be the **PERFECT SACRIFICE** for our **SINS!**

IV. LET'S UNDERSTAND THERE IS A PENALTY FOR NOT MEASURING UP TO GOD'S DEFINITION AND STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Romans 5:12—“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death...”

Revelation 20:11-15

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V. LET’S UNDERSTAND THE PROVISION BY GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEEDED TO MEET THE STANDARD!

2 Corinthians 5:21—“For he [GOD] hath made him [JESUS CHRIST] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:8–9—“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

1 Corinthians 15:21–22—“21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

VI. LET’S UNDERSTAND THAT OUR POSITION OF BEING IN CHRIST GIVES US AN UNQUESTIONABLE ETERNAL STANDING BEFORE GOD IN HIM!

Romans 3:21–22—“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 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:”

Romans 6:23— “The gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Conclusion

What a BLESSING, Amen! So, the question today then is this! Are you “IN CHRIST” because only those who are “IN CHRIST” have **GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS!** That is the **ONLY WAY** we can get it! And only those that have **GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS**, through **FAITH IN CHRIST**, will be allowed to dwell with **HIM** in **HEAVEN!**