

Righteousness

Donald Mann

One of the main works of the cross was to allow God to make us righteous in Jesus. 2 Cor 5:16

“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Righteousness can be described in three meanings.

1. Righteous acts or works are acts/results that God does through a person so they are perfectly right with God in every way and survive as gold, silver or jewels on the Day of Judgment. This is to obey and do all of God's commandments gladly.
2. The second is a legal state where the one is made as if they had never sinned or will ever sin again. This is like being exonerated in a court of law until you sin/break the law again. This righteousness is conditional as it is lost when you sin or violate the law again and you once again become a criminal or a “sinner” with a penalty due, as described in the Law of Moses. It must be restored in some way by an action that exonerates or removes the sin and pays or forgives the penalties/curse due for the sin. This is to be legally forgiven of the sin but your nature remains the same.
3. The third is to be imputed/given the gift of righteousness which means it is independent of your behavior; and the one who is made righteous to this level can produce no alienation or offence to the court or the one granting righteousness no matter what they do; and the one in authority aggressively pours all of the blessing and abundance on them (think spoiled rich kid with a patient and just father). This righteousness of God does not depend on your goodness, but Jesus' and is a permanent righteousness for Rom 11:29 “the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” Now your nature is new and your sins obliterated and you are reconciled to God once for all time.

Under the Law of Moses sins were covered by the annual atonement-covering, but the sins were never removed or fully paid for pending the propitiation of Christ. The sins were forgiven, i.e. the penalty of the law of sin and death removed and they were healed. But the effect was the people were made the second type of righteousness-blessed but conditional on right behavior. But if you sinned again you released death as the penalty for sin again. Jesus brought forgiveness and remission, the obliteration, of sin to make men the righteousness of God in Jesus.

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In Christ we are made the third kind of righteousness before God. We died with Him as our sins are paid in full by His suffering and death. Col 3:3 "For ye are dead, and your zao-life is hid with Christ in God." Rom 6:2 "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, zao-live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Gal 2:19 "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might zao-live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I zao-live; yet not I, but Christ zao-liveth in me: and the life which I now zao-live in the flesh I zao-live by the faith of the Son of God, who agape-loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." Rom 5:9 "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be sozo-saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be sozo-saved by his zoe-life." Luke 24:47 "And that repentance and aphasis-remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

By this one act of Jesus sin was remitted forever and we enter into this remission and being made the righteousness of God in Jesus by faith. 2 Cor 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Rom 3:28 "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. 29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: 30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith." Rom 4:5 "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Rom 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Under the Law of Moses sin was forgiven and the annual atonement covered sin until Jesus came. This forgiveness (NT Greek – aphiemi) brought the peace and prosperity of Israel. Remission – the removal-purging-destruction of sin (NT Greek – aphasis) makes us righteous, not just forgiven. Rom 3:25 "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the aphasis-remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier (*making righteous*) of him which believeth in Jesus." Heb 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no aphasis-remission." Acts 13:38 "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the aphasis-forgiveness-remission-obliteration of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Type 3 includes type 2.

In Jesus we see the fulfillment of God as our righteousness: Isa 45:24 "Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. 25 In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory." Jer 23:6 "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Isa 53:11 "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied:

by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify-*cleanse and make righteous* many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”

And this is found in the New Covenant through the blood of Jesus. Heb 8:10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” Heb 10:4 “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. ...16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where aphasis-remission-*removal-obliteration* of these (*unrighteousness, sins and iniquities*) is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,” To have your unrighteousness removed by faith means you are now righteous in spirit. As you confess your current sins you give thanks for the forgiveness already given.

And we get it the way it has always been given, by faith: Gen 15:6 “And he (*Abraham*) believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” To be righteous means there is no wrath, only blessing. Rom 5:10 “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be sozo-saved by his zoe-life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement-*reconciliation*.” Eph 2:13 “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace...” Col 1:20 “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:”

A key element is to understand that ourselves as Christians are different than our works. We ourselves, our spirits, are sozo-saved, already judged dead, made righteous unto new zoe-life in Jesus by Holy Spirit. A Christian is one who has received that by faith. We are now dead to the Law so the Law has no force over us, and we were made legally righteous to the level of Jesus before God to walk in the experiential outworking of right acts (Type 1) even though our current walk is not perfect (until we walk just like Jesus). 2 Cor 5:21 “For he (*God*) hath made him (*Jesus*) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (*Jesus*).”

Christian life works and behaviors will be judged for the Type 1 righteousness per 1 Cor 3:15 by fire on the Day of Judgment. Yet the born-again, new-man spirit is sozo-saved and survives that fire because of the third type of righteousness which is by the faith of/in Christ and not our works (Rom 5:10, Rom 10:6-13). What survives that day you get to keep. 1 Cor 3:12 “Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the

day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be sozo-saved; yet so as by fire." Your works may burn but not you.

God's solution for us was to include us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. This saves our spirit. Yet we will still have our works judged: Matt 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Rom 2:5 "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:" 2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

All the blessings of God go to the righteous: those who commit no sin in their earth walk, or who are now clean because they have had their sins forgiven (the sin action and the curse consequence of sin). Type 2, conditional righteousness, depends on you, i.e., your holiness. Type 3 righteousness depends on Jesus' holiness and not yours. If you are a Christian, Type 2 righteousness no longer applies before God as Type 3 is the greater. Rom 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" In peace God only has favor toward us to produce heaven on earth. Eph 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" 2 Peter 1:2 "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto zoe-life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." We escaped that corruption when we were crucified in Christ and then made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus by faith.

To the righteous God's answer is always "Yes!" 2 Cor 1:19 "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

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