

I AM RIGHTEOUS



Memory verse: Proverbs 4:18

The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

right·eous (adj.)

- just, upright, virtuous
- conforming to the divine law, right, accepted by God

1. The righteous are blessed!

The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. -*Proverbs 4:18*

Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. -*Psalms 5:12*

Blessings crown the head of the righteous -*Proverbs 10:6*

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. -*Matthew 13:43*

2. Problem: none of us are righteous.

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."
-*Romans 3:10-12*

3. The law cannot make us righteous, it only reveals our unrighteousness.

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. -*Romans 3:20*

4. Good news: Jesus, the righteous one, died for the unrighteous!

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, -*1 Peter 3:18*

5. God graciously gives righteousness to those who trust in Jesus' sacrifice.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. *-Romans 3:21-28*

jus·ti·fied (adj.)

declared or made righteous in the sight of God

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. *-Genesis 15:6*

- Through faith, God declares the sinner to be righteous.
- Through faith, God imputes the righteousness of Christ to the sinner.
- Through faith, Christ dwells in believers as their righteousness
- Through faith, the righteous practice their new identity.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *-2 Corinthians 5:21*

im·pute (v.)

to attribute to a person vicariously, as derived from another

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.” *-Romans 4:4-8*

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. - Philippians 3:9

“There is a righteousness which Paul calls “the righteousness of faith.” God imputes it to us apart from our works. . . . though I am a sinner in myself, with regard to the moral law, . . . yet in that righteousness I have no sin, no sting of conscience, no fear of death. I have another righteousness and life above this life, which is Christ the Son of God.” -*Martin Luther*

6. Through faith in Christ, I am righteous and enjoy all of the blessings of the righteous.

7. I must learn to reckon myself as righteous and to be who I really am.

Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. -*Romans 6:13*

reck-on (v.)

to consider or have the opinion that something is as stated.

“Although I am an unworthy and condemned man, my God has given me in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation without any merit on my part, out of pure, free mercy, so that from now on I need nothing except faith which believes that this is true. Why should I not therefore, freely, joyfully, with my whole heart and with an eager will do all things which I know are pleasing and acceptable to such a Father who has overwhelmed me with his inestimable riches? I will therefore give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ” -*Martin Luther*

“The only sin Jesus ever had was ours, and the only righteousness we can ever have is His.”
-*A.W. Tozer*

“No man can put on the robes of Christ’s righteousness till he has taken off his own.”
-*Charles Spurgeon*

“The One who calls you to a life of righteousness is the One who by our consent lives that life of righteousness through you!” -*Major Ian Thomas*

“You need the blood of Jesus as much now as at first. You never can stand before God in yourself. You must go again and again to be washed. Even on your dying bed, you must hide under Jehovah, our righteousness. You must also lean on Jesus. He alone can overcome the sin in you. Draw nearer and nearer to Him every day.” -*Robert Murray McChesney*