

## Spiritual Growth Questions for February 4, 2024

**Opener:** Before your salvation experience, how did you think man was made right with God? What happened to you that changed your thinking?

1. Study the eight occurrences of the “Righteousness of God” in **Romans: 1:17, 3:5, 3:21,22, 25, 26, & 10:3 (2x)**. This phrase is only used in Romans (**except II Corinthians 5:21**). Make note of what you learn about God’s righteousness. What do you see from these verses about *how a person is made right with God*?
2. **Read Romans 1:17 & 1:18.** Study the word “revealed” which usually refers to the eschatological disclosure of various aspects and elements of God’s redemptive plan, Moo. What is revealed in Romans 1:17 & 3:21? What is revealed in 1:18? Discuss what it means to be in the way of righteousness vs the way of unrighteousness and ungodliness? What does verse 18 teach about God’s response to those who are rejecting *his way of being made right with Him*? As humans what is our response to lawbreakers? Is God’s response to ungodliness and unrighteousness justified?
3. What is does the term “double imputation” mean? **Read Isaiah 53:6b, 53:12, John 1:29, I Peter 2:24 for one imputation.** Read **Romans 1:17 & 4:3-8, 2 Corinthians 5:21 for the other imputation.** What stands out to you each one as to how God makes us right with Him? Thank God for revealing his way of righteousness. Ask Him to help you fully understand it.
4. **Read Romans 1:17, James 2:10. Romans 8:3-4, Philippians 3:9.** Why is it impossible for man to fulfill the law? How did Christ fulfill it? What does this statement mean to you: “God makes me right with Him through the Gospel by faith. The righteous shall live by faith.” How does God use this to make us right with Him?
5. **Romans 1:17 & 3:21-22.** Righteousness means a new quality before God. What is that quality? What have the “law and prophets bearing witness to?” Discuss how your righteous standing before God and restored relationship with God a fulfillment of the Scriptures.
6. Why should the revelation of righteousness invoke gratefulness and a desire to live for God? Why should the revelation of wrath (vs.18) motivate us to share our faith with others? Consider what Paul endured to share this message throughout his life.

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

## Building A Strong Faith: A Study of the Book of Romans Mutual Strong Faith: How God Makes Us Right With Him Romans 1:16-18 February 4, 2024 Pastor John Lloyd

As we begin 2024, I can’t think of a more important asset than a “strong faith” relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our world is filled with both great opportunities and great challenges. The apostle Paul writes, “The righteous shall live by faith.” The book of Romans will map out a path for us how we can be rightly connected to God, ourselves, and others. “Romans is a feast for one’s soul.” There is an amazing work that God desires to do in us through His Son Jesus and empowered by His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the gospel of God. The result will be a strong faith that is able to draw strength from God no matter what comes our way. Today, we will focus on how we are made right with God. A right relationship with God is truly invaluable as we walk through this life. How does a holy God make a sinful (imperfect) human right with Him? God’s work is miraculous.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

**Why Study Romans?** Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: Job 9:2b “But how can a man be in the **right** before God?”

**Big Idea: Only God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ can make man right with him. God’s work is truly miraculous!**

- I. The transforming power is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek

Why? The Gospel is charged with power! It is powerful enough to save anyone.

Believing-

“The gospel is powerful because it carries with it the omnipotence of God. Only God’s power can overcome man’s sinful nature and give him new life.” John MacArthur

**The key is continually surrendering and committing your trust to Jesus.**

Stay connected to the Gospel & you will experience it's transforming power: By believing it! By praying it! By supporting it! By sharing it!

**Faith connects us to the Gospel and the Gospel connects us to faith!  
How is your connection? God's work is truly miraculous!**

II. Trusting in Jesus literally brings God's \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

*How can an imperfect/sinful human be made right with God?*

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

This righteousness that God offers us as sinner is thus God's own righteousness in which we can stand in right relation to God forever. The righteousness of God which once separated the sinner from God's presence now keeps him in God's presence. The righteousness that will condemn the unrepentant sinner who rejects it, saves, and keeps safe for all eternity the sinner who accepts it. The righteousness that separates when rejected saves when it is accepted. Lloyd Jones (*See Growth Question 1*)

Revealed-

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been **manifested** apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we **uphold** the law. (Philippians 3:9)

Jesus fulfilled the law on our behalf. Romans 8:3-4 (see Question 4)

A. This righteousness \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:17a A righteousness that is by faith from first to last.

B. God makes me right with Him through the \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:17b The righteous will live by faith.

Romans 4:22 That is why his faith was "*counted* to him as righteousness." 23 But the words "it was *counted* to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be *counted* to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Counted-

Justification- to pronounce one righteous/ a new relationship with God. Justification is the right relationship between God and man. Doug Moo

"How are these people righteous? Ah it is a righteousness by faith." Luther

The central purpose of the Gospel is to make believers just with God so that we can stand with righteousness in His holy presence. Lloyd Jones

C. God's righteousness imparts to us a \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ before Him. Christ's righteousness becomes \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness.

Romans 1:17- the just/righteous shall live by faith. (Galatians 3:11)

**Double imputation-** God imputes his \_\_\_\_\_ to us and He imputes our \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus. (*See Growth Question 3*)

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (John 19:30).

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. (Galatians 3:13 by becoming a curse for us)

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (See Growth Q #5)

We have been saved from the penalty of sin - Justification.

We are being saved from the power of sin - Sanctification.

We will be saved from the very presence of sin- Glorification Dr. Martin

**The righteous-** we are justified based on Christ's finished work alone.

**Shall live-** we are accepted based on Christ's finished work.

**By Faith-** not based on anything we do.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (*See Growth Question 2*)

The man or woman of God's boast is the power of God unto salvation. His commitment is a life of faith. His goal is to have the life of Jesus manifested.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

"God sees us as we are, loves us as we are, and accepts us as we are. But by His grace, He does not leave us where we are." Timothy Keller

**Prayer to God: Please show me how to live out this righteousness through Jesus Christ who lives inside of me. Grow my understanding of the gospel of God more in 2024. Share the gospel more and more in 2024. God's work is truly miraculous!**

