

*“Grace & Peace to You”*  
**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

Voice of China and Asia  
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**ROMANS- Lesson 13: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD PART 1**

**ROM 1:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

**God’s Righteousness Revealed**

**FOR...** - Here is the basis for Paul’s dedication to present this **GOSPEL** to ALL people...

**In IT [THE GOSPEL] the righteousness of God is revealed... -**

- This is **NOT** about “the righteousness believers receive” as a result of “faith”
- THIS is about **THE MESSAGE** that reveals **God’s Righteous Work** in redeeming Mankind...
- THIS is **the subject of Paul’s LETTER...** What **God DID...** **WHY** He Acted **ON** our behalf... **WHY** human “works” **CANNOT** produce “righteousness” ... **HOW** He **Saved** those who Believe
  - NOT our Religion... -
  - NOT our Works... -
  - NOT our Wisdom... -

**LUTHER:** The teaching of the ROMAN CHURCH had been that “righteousness” was a reference to **God’s**

**Judgment:** The “Justice of God...” was to them a terrible and ever-present thing. Before God, the “JUDGING ONE”, individuals were only acceptable **as we were continually repentant and humble** [ a very **BAD** application of a **BAD** translation of “the righteous shall LIVE by faith...” ] .

SIN was to be “driven” FROM them – *an action that was NEVER complete... for God’s wrath was NEVER satisfied* – even persisting AFTER death.

- The Ascended JESUS was a **Fearful Judge** who was ever aware of their SIN...
- By the 4<sup>th</sup> Cent, MARY had become **AN INTERCESSOR** who would plead FOR us TO her SON...
- After death they would be subjected to the “purging/cleansing” punishments that their SIN deserved... **paying our “debt” to GOD** [ DANTE’S “DIVINE COMEDY” – Pt 1: INFERNO ]
- Indulgences / Pilgrimages / Self-Punishing Physical Penitence / Fasting experienced in this life could help in partial forgiveness
- By LUTHER’S day, one could “pay ahead” for sins NOT YET committed... OR pay for someone else to “escape from Hell” -

For these reasons, LUTHER **“hated GOD.”** He could NEVER be purged... forgiven... righteous.

BUT... their understanding was WRONG! Their preaching abhorrent...

Over time Luther came to a more complete “revelation” of the true meaning and application of this passage. His words:

*I had greatly longed to understand Paul's Letter to the ROMANS, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, 'the righteousness of God', because I took it to mean a righteousness whereby God is righteous and acts righteously in punishing the unrighteous... Night and day I pondered until ... I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is THAT righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, HE justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before "the righteousness of God" had filled me with hate, NOW it became to me inexpressibly sweet... This passage of Paul became to me a gateway into heaven.*

## ROMANS- Lesson 13: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD PART 2

Paul enlarges upon this subject in ROMANS 3-5 as he presents “his GOSPEL” – the GOSPEL OF GOD’S REDEEMING GRACE. Consider:

ROM 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of GOD has been manifested apart from the law, although the LAW and the PROPHEETS bear witness to it—<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of GOD through faith in JESUS CHRIST for all who believe.

ROM 3:23-26 “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of GOD,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by HIS blood, to be received by faith. This was to show GOD's righteousness, because in HIS divine forbearance HE had passed over former sins.<sup>26</sup> It was to show HIS righteousness at the present time, so that HE might be just and THE JUSTIFIER of the one who has faith in JESUS.”

ROM 4:6-8 “... just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom GOD counts righteousness apart from works: [PSALM 32:1-2]

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the LORD will not count his sin.”

ROM 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with GOD through our LORD JESUS CHRIST.<sup>2</sup> Through HIM we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of GOD.

ROM 5:16-17 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.<sup>17</sup> For if, because of “one man's” trespass, death reigned through that one

man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the “one” man” JESUS CHRIST.

From faith unto faith... - When one “believes – exercises faith” they are made righteous so that they may live a righteous life as they “believe – have faith in” His Promise [HIS WORD]

as it is written, “The RIGHTEOUS (ones) shall live by faith.” –

- The emphasis of the sentence is **NOT** on “faith” but on “the Righteous”
- ONLY the “righteous” WILL live... and they are “righteous BY their faith in the GOSPEL OF GOD”
- HAB 2:4 – The direct application is to “surviving the coming invasion of Judah” by BELIEVING (having faith) what God had said and separating from the unrighteous...
- THESE are “made righteous” – “having been evaluated by God and declared righteous because they ‘believed His Word’ [like Abraham had done – ROM 4:3; 9; 22]”

HAB 2:2-4 “READ the vision... make it plain. So that he who reads it may ‘run’ [live]” –

The Righteous WILL believe... THEREFORE...

- The Righteous will stand...
- The Righteous will endure...
- The Righteous will be restored...
- The Righteous will BE SAVED...

BECAUSE they BELIEVED... They truly “Lived [because of their] faith...” – WHILE awaiting the fulfillment of Salvation

HEZEKIAH... JEREMIAH... EZEKIEL... great examples

- It becomes a “true type” of believing God’s Word: Used 2 more x’s GAL 3:11; HEB 10:38
- The “faith” of ROM 1:17 is FIRST to believe the GOSPEL Message – “Jesus has come as the Messiah (the Christ) that God had promised, to save humanity from their sin. To accept His death and resurrection as your substitute, is to find life and righteousness IN Him” [ROM 3-5]
- SECOND: having been “made righteous” we are able to live a life of separation from the world:
  - showing our power over sin, [ROM 6-8:17]
  - Living in glorious victory through this life and for Eternity, [ROM 8:18-39]
  - and producing righteous deeds to glorify God [ROM 12-16]