

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 1:17 “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Romans 1:17 refers to the “righteousness of God” and then “the righteous.” The Righteousness of God is His holiness, perfection, sinlessness. Who then would be the righteous? Doesn’t the Bible say that all human beings sin? (Romans 3:23) Yet, Romans 1:17 refers to “the righteous.” Again, who are they?

You are righteous. You are righteous because of the saving work of Jesus through His life, death and resurrection. You are righteous because Jesus reconciled you to your heavenly Father so He no longer counts your sins against you. (Romans 5:10) You are righteous is the heart of the Gospel’s message (yesterday’s devotion.) Jesus came as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. (John 1:29) He became the atoning sacrifice for your sins and the sins of all people. (1 John 2:2)

By God raising Jesus from His grave on Easter morning, God pronounced His absolution (forgiveness) upon the world of sinners. And, by the faith God has given you in Jesus you personally receive His absolution. For, the Gospel says, “whoever believes in Him shall not perish but receive everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

By God’s grace, through faith in Jesus, you are righteous, without sin, holy in God’s sight. As you look into the mirror of God’s law you may question how this can be because you know you have sinned and continue to sin. How then can you be righteous?

You are not righteous because of what you do, the good life you live, how moral you are, how well you obey man’s and God’s laws. God will declare no one righteous based upon the way they live their life. Yet, you are righteous in God’s sight because you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior who suffered and died for your sins and rose again three days later, thus defeating Satan, sin, the world and death in your place. (Romans 10:9) Jesus is righteous. Through your faith in Him His righteousness is your righteousness.

Prayer: Jesus, Your blood and righteousness is now mine too. Thanks, and praise to You for redeeming me through the shedding of your blood on Calvary's cross.

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God  
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,  
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.  
(LSB 563)