

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Romans 1:17

Introduction:

- Determine the following statements as true (T) or false (F)
 - _____ All dogs have four legs.
 - _____ π (pi) equals exactly 3.14 inches
 - _____ There are 60 seconds in one minute, 3600 seconds in one hour, and 86,000 seconds in one day
- Determining truth or falsity is a critical task
 1. If one part of a statement is false, then it renders the whole statement as _____
 2. If a person interprets Rom 1:17 wrong, they will misunderstand the rest of Romans.
 - a. Verse 17 is the t_____ verse of Romans
 - b. The first 11 chapters are devoted to addressing the understanding of the r_____ of God
 - c. Christian groups who falsely call themselves Christians (cults) get this verse wrong.
 3. We have the Holy Spirit as our ultimate t_____ (I Jn 2:27) - Let Him teach you through His word.

The Righteousness of God is Re_____ in the Gospel

- The word “f_____” shows the reason why Paul is not ashamed of the gospel
 1. Verse 16 – *for it is the p_____ of God for salvation*
 2. Verse 17 – *for in it the righteousness of God is r_____*
- What does Paul mean by the righteousness of God?
 1. Phrases can have different meanings (e.g. in the hole means different things depending upon the c_____)
 - a. A g_____ ball going in the hole
 - b. The t_____ person in line for a field event in sports
 - c. An unfavorable f_____ position
 2. The righteousness of God can mean different things depending upon the c_____
 - a. The righteousness that b_____ to God (as opposed to our righteousness)
 - b. A God-k_____ of righteousness (as opposed to another kind)
 - c. The righteousness that God g_____
 3. The context tells us that this righteousness is revealed in the g_____ - therefore this righteousness of God is good news (the meaning of “gospel”)
 - a. Is the truth that God is righteous good news?
 - 1) When Adam and Eve sinned, God’s righteousness brought p_____
 - 2) When the world became so wicked, God’s righteousness brought a universal f_____
 - b. Is the good news that there is a God-kind of righteousness? (although correct it is too general in meaning)
 - c. Is the good news that God gives righteousness?
 - 1) The gospel is about how sinners (Rom 3:23) can be declared i_____ of sin
 - 2) The gospel declares that C_____ is our righteousness (2 Cor 5:21; I Cor 1:30)
- The gospel reveals how sinners can become right with God
 1. That is why Paul was not ashamed of the g_____
 2. So how can a sinner receive this righteousness

The Righteousness of God is Re_____ by Faith

- The most literal translation of the Greek – *of faith, into faith* – does not make good sense in English.
 1. Compare translations:
 - a. NASB – *from faith to faith*
 - b. NIV – *by faith from first to last*
 2. This is a Greek way of saying that righteousness is received by faith a_____
 - a. Righteousness can never be gained by doing g_____

b. Phil 3:9 – Paul stated that he did not want to be found with a righteousness of his own but one that is based on f_____ and comes from G_____.

●What is faith in this context?

1. It is not just believing f_____ (the devil does this)
2. It is t_____ in the person of the gospel (Christ) and His work as the only payment for your sins.
3. When you trust Jesus Christ as your God and Savior, God declares you r_____

●Many are wrongly teaching a righteousness of works

1. Jesus said that many will point to their religious deeds and He will tell them that He never k_____ them (Matt 7:22,23)
 - a. We are not to do good deeds to gain righteousness
 - b. We are to do good deeds because we already have been declared righteous
2. The thief on the cross had no righteous deeds, only a few brief hours of f_____ - Jesus told him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise"(Lk 22:43).

The Righteousness of God Re_____ in life

●Paul quotes Hab 2:4 to support his teaching about the righteousness of God.

- a. Compare translations of both Rom 1:17 and Hab 2:4
 - 1) *the righteous will live by faith* (most translations)
 - 2) *he who through faith is righteous will live* (RSV)
- b. The word order in Hab 2:4 and in Rom 1:17 in the original language is as follows:

the righteous by faith will live

- c. So Paul quotes Hab 2:4 to prove that all along, righteousness has come only in one way – by f_____

●Only those who are righteous by faith will l_____

1. Sin results in d_____
2. Righteousness results in l_____ (Jn 3:16)

Conclusion:

●Wester's paraphrase of Rom 1:17

Another reason that I am not ashamed of the gospel is because it is the good news which reveals that a person can only become right with God by faith, just like it says in Habakkuk, those that become right with God by means of faith will live forever.

●What should you do?

1. If you have received the righteousness of God by faith, thank the Lord personally for His gift – you deserve the Lake of fire!
2. If you have not received the righteousness of God, trust Jesus today and live!