

A Communion Offering

In Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille's books, which were given as a part of his Power for Abundant Living class, I found five definitions of righteousness. Three are very similar with a few word changes and are like the one given in the book *The Bible Tells Me So*, in the chapter entitled "You Are Righteous Now", first edition page 67.

Righteousness is the God given justification whereby a person stands in the presence of God without any consciousnesses of sin, guilt or shortcomings.

Because of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ, his sacrifice, his believing God to the ultimate degree, then when we confess him as lord, knowing God has raised a man from the dead, we become born again. We receive the gift of holy spirit born within us, eternal life, the love and faith of Jesus Christ. By his life, death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God, we are made righteous and by God's grace we now stand before God perfectly justified and righteous. In that book Dr. Wierwille ties this definition directly to Romans chapter eight verse thirty three.

Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

Another definition which is less similar to the first three but very helpful in understanding righteousness is found in the book *Receiving the holy spirit Today*, seventh edition, page 74.

Righteousness is the spirit from God in man, not the goodness of the man.

It is Christ by grace that makes us righteous not anything we do or have done¹. Yet man constantly tries to earn his own righteousness. In Genesis chapter two and three we see examples of all of this.

2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Here Adam and Eve had holy spirit upon them. They were, by that holy spirit and God's grace, righteous. Because of that righteousness they were standing in the presence of God without any consciousnesses of sin, guilt or shortcomings. In this context the word naked means to be completely open to God, making bare our soul, sharing our heart with no fear, knowing God loves and cares for us. Yet this would soon change. Adam and Eve broke God's Word and let the devil lead them to losing their holy spirit, righteousness and fellowship with God. As soon as Adam and Eve realized what had happened and that the devil had beaten them, they were condemned and begin to try and make their own righteousness.

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

The word naked here is a different Hebrew word, and in this context means to be naked before your enemies, beaten, all your weapons taken, your property taken, slaves. We see in great detail this use in the book of Ezekiel, where Aholibah is a symbolic name for the people of Judah. Judah had been looking to other idolatrous nations for their sufficiency, rather than the true God. They also had adapted devil spirit practices from their association with idolatrous nations. This would bring upon them loss, hurt and destruction.

Ezekiel 23:22 Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers² against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side; 23 The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa, *and* all the Assyrians with them: 25 and thy remnant shall fall by the sword: they shall take thy sons and thy daughters;

¹ Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

² Idolatry and devil spirit worship are often set in a sexual context in the Word of God. The word *lovers* used in verse 22 indicates that Judah had not only worked with these idolatrous nations for profit but had accepted, at least in part, their devilish worship.

and thy residue shall be devoured by the fire. 26 They shall also strip thee out of thy clothes, and take away thy fair jewels. 29 And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, **and shall leave thee naked and bare**:30 because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, *and* because thou art polluted with their idols.

Adam and Eve went from a position of righteousness before God open to God and in all peace having, perfect health and all they needed, to being stripped of that righteousness, and without God's blessing and protection, slaves in the devils kingdom. The death they suffered that day was the loss of their holy spirit, righteousness and direct fellowship with God. Stripped of their, by grace, God given righteousness man goes about to make his own righteousness by his own works, "...and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons". True righteousness only comes from God by grace³.

Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Adam and Eve have made a wreck of their own lives and all mankind. Satan has tricked them into sin and out of fellowship with God. Yet God in mercy, grace and love will workout a way of salvation for Adam and Eve and mankind.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. 11 And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

God is spirit, John 4:24, He is all powerful, everywhere present and all knowing. So we should ask, why is He asking questions He already knows the answer to? The answer to that is, because God is love. God, in His love, is doing all he can to help Adam, Eve and all mankind out of being naked slaves before their enemies and back to being in open hearted fellowship with Him, having all they need and eternal life. Yet God has given men, the right to choose, freedom of will. So, God needs their believing.

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Here, in verse fifteen, is the first prophecy of the coming Christ. Here is where Adam and Eve will set their believing in a good God who will save them. Those who believed God in the Old Testament looked forward to the fulfillment of this prophecy, the coming Christ.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou

³ Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

return.

God is not cursing Adam and Eve or even Satan. God is telling them the results that they have brought on themselves, by their sin, that is the curse. If we climb to the roof of the house and jump off, breaking our leg on landing, we can blame God all day for gravity but it is our foolishness that broke our leg, not God's laws. When men break God's laws, physical or spiritual, they bring on themselves the results of their own actions. God is love and always wants the best for all His creation, that is why He tells us, do this, do not do that. Yet God in His mercy will forgive man and heal man.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. 21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Now God give Adam and Eve a way to have righteousness and fellowship with Him. They had tried to enact their own righteousness but God in his love and justice has a way to cover for man until Christ will come. God gives animal sacrifice as a covering for sin until Christ.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. 4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

God gave man a way to have His righteousness and fellowship with Him, but it is a covering, a temporary fix that must be repeated over and over. God's permanent fix is Christ.

....9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Jesus Christ would pay the price once and for all. Jesus lived his whole life believing God to the ultimate. Believing he was bringing deliverance to all men, he endured all the humiliation and suffering the devil could wield. Finally he looked death in the eye and believed in a good God that raises men from the dead and he gave his life. Then three days and nights later God did raise him from the dead with a new body and eternal life. What man had lost in Adam and Eve man got back in full, plus being born again of incorruptible seed. We are in the new birth God's kids, with the gift of holy spirit born within for all eternity. By Christ God has made us as righteous as He is righteous. Our salvation is complete in Christ.

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;..... 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Verse 2 of Hebrews ten tells us "can never make the comers thereunto perfect" and "because that the worshippers once purged [perfect] should have had no more conscience of sins". When in verse 14 we are "perfected for ever" in the context of salvation and eternal life, we then, by God's grace in Christ, should have no more conscience of sins. Jesus Christ has giving back to mankind all that Adam and Eve were tricked out of. We confess him as lord and believe God has raised him from the dead and we become born again⁴. In this new spiritual birth having the gift of holy spirit born within us⁵. By that holy spirit we are righteous and may again stand in the presence of God without any consciousnesses of sin, guilt or shortcomings. We may lose our fellowship but never our holy spirit, spiritual righteousness and eternal life. And God in His grace by Christ has given us a way back to fellowship with Him minute by minute.

⁴ Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
⁵ 1st Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1st John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus Christ has paid the price for sin making us God's kids in a spiritual new birth. He made us able to have keep and renew our daily righteousness and fellowship with God our Father. In that he not only redeemed us but he also made our healing just as real. We may believe to be healed completely just as the man born blind in John chapter 9, the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8 or the lame man at the gate in Acts 3.

1st Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

God in his love and mercy has, by Christ, given men back all that Adam and Eve had in the original time in the garden. We are righteous by His grace and by Christ that is eternal life born within every son and daughter of God. By what Christ endured at Calvary, the stripes he bore, we have been healed. Just as many who are born again may not believe and accept his righteousness and fellowship with God and then walk in darkness fear and despair, so we may not believe we have our healing and never walk in God's total deliverance in Christ. Yet God still loves us, never condemning us, He desires we not only have fellowship with Him, but live with more than abundance in all areas of life.

3rd John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Adam and Eve, by grace, had the righteousness of God and they were tricked out of it. This put all man kind in a state of being slaves in the devil's kingdom. But God in His love and justice made a way for man to return to fellowship with Him, citizens of His heavenly kingdom.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation [citizenship⁶] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

By Christ we now have all that Adam and Eve had and more. We are sons and daughters of God, citizens of heaven, born again of His spirit, with Christ in each and every one. By God's accomplishments in Christ, by Jesus sacrifice, we may walk today in the power, healing and love of God standing in the very presence of the God who created all that is, with no fear, but simply respect, reverence, awe, love and thankfulness for all God has given us. Sons of God with power walking for Him upon His earth.

⁶ Strong's number G4175, Greek politeuma, Strong's definition a *community*, that is, (abstractly) *citizenship* (figuratively): - conversation. - Total KJV occurrences: 1