

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

5.3.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Righteousness Through Faith

Romans 3: 21 - 31

Standing righteous before God is a gift received by faith believing and wholly trusting in Christ Jesus. This means that Christ took upon himself the sins of mankind, and shared with us his holiness, allowing for our justification, so that we might be viewed by God as blameless. Now, while righteousness is a free gift, we must allow it to lead us into a transformed, holy life, sanctified by God through his Holy Spirit, reflecting our life in Christ. Attempting to achieve righteousness other than by the faith-based acceptance of Christ work on the cross will not satisfy Gods standard and will prove to be fruitless and inexcusable. Therefore, our identity as being righteous by God is not earned by works, but it is granted by our faith through his mercy and his grace, enabling us as believers the confidence to live in peace, free from the condemnation and wrath of sin, and allowing us to approach the throne of God boldly. Embracing our new identity in Christ means letting go of the need to earn Gods favor and remaining secure in the fact that we are already accepted by him.

Ephesians 4:24,....that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness....

As believers, because we have actively, by faith, adopted a new identity in Christ, we now live in a spirit led, spirit filled renewal of the mind. This encourages us to align our daily thoughts and actions with our new nature in Christ. This comes as we allow the Holy Spirit to conform us to be Christlike, who is righteous and holy, which means through faith we can stand righteous before God.

Romans 3: 21 – 23,....but now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets....even the righteous of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe, for there is no difference....for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God....

The law showed mankind the need for righteousness, but it could not provide it. Now, the law pointed toward the gospel of grace, therefore, grace was not a new concept, but it is a fulfillment of the old. Gods' solution was to offer righteousness through faith in his Son, Christ, who, by his sacrifice made available his free gift of grace, accessible to all of mankind without distinction. Now, righteousness is not earned, nor is it gained by trying to attain Gods standard through works, for it has nothing to do with personal performance, but it is based upon the perfection of Christ, purchased through the promises of his sacrifice. Therefore, mankind's inherited sin nature creates an absolute need for salvation. So, Gods mercy diagnosis the sickness, which is sin, and prescribes the cure which is justification by grace. Now, even after we are saved, believers still fall short, so Gods long term plan of sanctification for spiritual wellness and maturity is given for us so that we might continue to rely upon him and trust in his grace.

1 John 3: 4 – 6,....whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law, for sin is the transgression of the law....and ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him is no sin....whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither know him....

Sin is not just being disobedient, but it is an active rebellion against the promises and commandments of God word. It is our willful choice to resist Gods will in our life, rendering us incapable of having a true relationship with Christ. But as true believers, even though we are not perfected in our salvation, we have a ready desire to live righteously, setting ourselves apart from a worldly lifestyle of lawlessness.

Romans 3: 24 – 26,....being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus....whom God hath set forth to be an atonement through faith in his blood, to declare righteousness for the remission of sins that are past....to declare....his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus....

As believers, we abide in God and he abides in us, a relationship that is maintained through our act of obedience to the promises and commandments of his word, confirmed within us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. This gives unto us confidence and assures us that we are truly walking in his truth, which means that we are to live a life in Christ that is practical, one that experiences the presence of an almighty God, strengthened by the power of the holy Spirit within. Therefore, God declares the believer righteous, due to our faith in the finished work of Christ, whereby also he shows unto us his fairness by punishing the sinfulness of our disobedience, but remaining righteous to us in the fact that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 89: 14 – 15,....justice and judgement are the habitation of the throne, mercy and truth shall go before thy face....blessed is the people that know thy joyful sound, they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance....

Gods' fairness is anchored in his mercy and his truth, and even though there are consequences to our disobedience, we can trust that his righteousness and his love will still remain in our life. Every action that he takes comes through his loving devotion and faithfulness to those who believe. Therefore, let us approach God with confidence, knowing that his decisions are based accordingly in his love for us.

Romans 3: 27 – 28,....where is boasting then? It is excluded....by what law?...of works?...nay....but by the law of faith....therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law....

So, no man can claim credit for his own, or anyone else's justification, which eliminates our focus on self-righteousness and spiritual pride, for justification relies solely on the sacrifice of Christ. Therefore, we have no basis on which to brag concerning our spiritual standing of self-righteousness. We serve God, not to gain spiritual recognition, but we serve God out of gratitude for a free gift already received. The only pathway to righteousness is by faith in Christ, who took the punishment for the sin that we deserved. So, we have an assurance of salvation, given unto us through the promises and commandments of his word, which is used by the Holy Spirit to comfort us, by showing unto us that the security of our salvation is based upon Christ finished work, and not upon our own emotionally fragile motives.

Romans 3: 29 – 31,....is he the God of the Jews only?....is he not also of the Gentiles?....seeing it is one God, which shall justify.... by faith....do we then make void the law through faith....God forbid....we establish the law....

So, faith is a requirement for all of humanity, therefore, we must bring to an end in our life, all of the works based religious rules and regulations, and focus completely upon Christ and him crucified. But remember, there is a purpose to the law, and that is to lead mankind to Christ, by showing unto us those things in our life that are not pleasing unto God. Therefore, let us acknowledge our need for the law, for it helps us to recognize, that in order to receive righteousness, we must rely upon God's grace to expose the disobedience in our heart, and then, direct us into the pathway of his righteousness. It is a humble action on our part, to surrender self, and to embrace Gods divine mercy, his grace, and his love, completely submitting to his authority, and daily living a life that reflects his righteousness through our faith in his Son, Christ Jesus.

Let us Pray

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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