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# The Messenger



*"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15*

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**A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385**

**Website: [westlakechurchofchrist.org](http://westlakechurchofchrist.org)**

**Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.**

***Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)***

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**Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.**

## **The Gospel – God’s Righteousness for Man**

### **Part 4 - Conclusion**

*by Dempsey Collins*

“The idea of righteousness is often understood in a forensic context: the righteous man is he whom the judge declares to be free from guilt.” (George E. Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, p. 440)

“To declare, pronounce one to be just, righteous or such as he ought to be ... respecting God who judges and declares such men as put faith in Christ to be righteous and acceptable to Him ...” (Thayer Greek English Lexicon p. 150)

In Romans we see how sinners can be judicially acquitted by God the Judge though they are truly guilty of many sins. Through the gospel God is both just and justifier (Rom. 3:26).

The Old Testament prophets foretold a time when God’s righteousness for man would be revealed (Isa. 45:1-3; 46:12, 13; 51:1-6; 54:13-17; 56:1; 61:3, 10, 11; 62:1, 2; Ps. 24:5; 98:1-4; Dan. 9:24).

In each passage we see the connection between God’s salvation for man and God’s righteousness. Righteousness is to be revealed by God; it goes forth from God; it is brought near and made available to man; it is realized among men.

May infinite glory be to God who has now revealed this righteousness through the gospel so that we may “stand in grace” – fully acquitted of all sin through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

“I may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Phil. 3:9).

The comments by Tim McGuiggan are helpful here:

Putting faith in Jesus is not a substitute for the righteous demands of the Law. The demands of the Law were fully met and fulfilled by Jesus (cp. Matt. 5:17 w/Col. 2:14).

God’s righteousness is a free gift (Rom. 5:18; 6:23). The ground of this righteousness is the perfect life, death and resurrection of Jesus – a finished work (Heb. 1:3; 10:10). No man can add any merit to this work because no one has any to offer.

This righteousness is by faith because the ungodly must claim Jesus as his representative in order to enter into this union.

This righteousness will result in holy living (Rom. 6, 8, 12-15). Where there is no pursuit of right living there is no righteousness before God (Jn. 3:7).

The holiness which flows from God’s gift of righteousness is not ground for justification. No amount of holy living becomes or is ground for acceptance with God. Our right standing with God is bought for us by the “once for all” offering of Christ (Heb. 10:10, I Cor. 6:19, 20). The ground for justification is not Christ’s finished work plus our growth. No amount of obedience can make up or further make up for any sins.

We must remain in submission to Christ to remain in right standing with God. The righteousness given to us by God is dynamic and ongoing. It is not a once for all act in the past. We must continue to walk in the light (I John 1:7) and live by faith (Rom. 1:17). (Romans Commentary, McGuiggan, pp. 17, 18)

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## News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” - James 5:16*