

“The Righteousness Of God” Part 1

Pastor Grant Williams June 22, 2016

2 Peter 1:1-4 King James Version

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

When you hear the word ***righteous or righteousness*** – what word or words quickly pop into your head?

- o **righteousness** - adhering to moral principles
- o **rectitude, uprightness** - righteousness as a consequence of being honorable and honest
- o **morality** - concern with the distinction between good and evil or right and wrong; right or good conduct
- o **justice, justness** - the quality of being just or fair
- o **honor, honour** - the quality of being honorable and having a good name; "a man of honor"

Righteousness is: a right standing with God or doing what is right in the sight of God according to HIS WORD. This is speaking about divine nature, a nature change. Having the nature of God and doing what He said we can do take a hold of us and be us. Righteousness will give us the ability to stand before God without guilt shame, condemnation or any sense of unworthiness.

The Word of God tells us in Proverbs chapter 28...

Proverbs 28:1 King James Version

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Why are they bold?

2 Peter 1:1 King James Version

I...they have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

When we come into the righteousness (right standing) of God and start operating in this righteousness, it gives us this faith that comes to us and flows through us without us having to work it up. This faith will start to become a natural part of this righteousness package.

We have been learning about the blessing of God and living by faith in our last series, because with out it, it is impossible to please God. This is how you and I came to Christ is by faith and the just shall live how ? By faith!

I have seen many people trying to obtain faith and use their faith but they became weak in their faith, they start to doubt, it's just wasn't working. Righteousness is the key, there needs to be righteousness as a base for that faith to operate.

We can't operate in faith when we still have guilt, shame and sin or ignorance to the Word of God.

Lets go to verse 3 of 2 Peter chapter 1...

2 Peter 1:3 King James Version

*3 According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things** that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him.....*

We know we came into this new nature of righteousness when we are born again. We are born into it.

When you look at your past, satan's most powerful weapon is ignorance. The first thing that God gave Adam was protection- HE said "Adam, don't eat of this tree." Now this was information for Adam, and this information set up a boundary for what Adam was to do and how to conduct his behavior.

Genesis 2:17 King James Version

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Satan came to sew seeds of distrust. He said to Eve, did God really say that?

Genesis 3:1 King James Version

3 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Seeds of doubt were sewn in those words. She was deceived and gave that to Adam which he did eat of the forbidden fruit and next thing you know, everything fell. Toil, worry anxiousness, not trusting, not believing just came upon them.

Until we come to know God through faith in Christ and begin to obey HIS WORD we still remain in the same darkness that Adam fell into. The darkness which I'm talking about is **spiritual darkness or spiritual ignorance.**

Let's go to the book of John, chapter 8. We are talking about the knowledge of HIM. In order to be righteous (right standing) we need knowledge. What kind of knowledge is this? This knowledge has to do with knowledge on a much higher level than this mental knowledge that we get through the normal education system.

John 8:30-39 King James Version

30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, (to obtain knowledge on how to be in right standing with my father and then do it) then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

These particular people were under Roman occupation. The Romans were telling them what to do. They were running the Babylonian system, the world system independent of God. They are telling Jesus, "we were never in bondage to any man" but, they were supposed to be the head and now they are the tail.

Deuteronomy 28:13 King James Version

13 And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Deuteronomy 28:13 English Standard Version

13 And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them,

They were supposed to governing **things** and now the world system of Rome was governing. I repeat, they were supposed to governing **things** and now the world system of Rome was governing. Does that sound familiar?

So here they tell Jesus we aren't in bondage. It's interesting how the enemy can deceive people who have no spiritual sight and knowledge. They think sense they have stuff: job, cars, house, 401k, retirement plan, money in the bank, that they aren't in bondage.

John 8:36 King James Version

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

What I'm saying is, until we come to know God through faith in Christ and begin to obey (do, take action) HIS WORD, we remain in darkness or spiritual ignorance.

Now, this is what I'm talking about when I say information absent of God. Knowledge not enlightened by the truth of God's Word is **dark knowledge**.

This is what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 6...

Matthew 6:23 King James Version

23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:23-24 Amplified

23 But if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light in you [your conscience] is darkened, how dense is that darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in).

John 1:5 King James Version

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The darkness couldn't comprehend or understand the light.

John 8:12 King James Version

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

You can have a bachelors degree, master's degree or a phd, but without the Lord, all of this is dark information. Follow me now...don't get mad at me... "the truth shall set you free."

If I'm on the Titanic, does everyone know what I'm talking about? What is the titanic famous for? it sunk. Well, everyone on that ship felt it was the best, most well built ship to ever be on the water, but it sunk. They were on the ship having a good time: dancing, partying, but that didn't make any difference because in time it was going down and they were going down with it.

With dark knowledge it's still going down. The only thing that dark knowledge does is help you get through this dark world. But the knowledge of God gives you the ability to dominate the dark world and when this ship goes down, which it is - the bible says it is, you will stay afloat because your ship won't sink.

Satan tries to filter out the light, he doesn't want the bibles in the schools, prayer in schools, ten commandments on government buildings, marriage between just a man and a woman. He doesn't want people to come to a bible believing church so he deceives pastors into watering down the Word and speak to itching ears.

Some of our toughest battles are on Sunday mornings. When everyone is getting ready in the morning and you're waiting on this one to do their hair or this one to find their socks. Now, no one knows who I'm talking about so don't make eye contact with your spouse so they won't know either.

Remember, the greatest weapon that satan has is ignorance. If he can keep you spiritually ignorant he's doesn't have to worry about you. We have to renew our minds... every day!

Hosea 4:6 King James Version

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Proverbs 14:12 King James Version

12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Oh it seems right...and there's nothing wrong with education. But the whole idea of education is designed to draw something out of you. Your gifting(s) are already in you. I said, your gifting(s) are already in you. What education does and is designed to do is draw that gifting out of you.

When I plant an acorn, everything is already in it. The branches are in it, the leaves are in it, more acorns are in it. Everything is already in you. God has already downloaded it into you. Even before the foundation of the world, HE downloaded it in you. It's in you right now.

That's why the enemy wants to keep you provision minded (toiling), he wants you to keep chasing money all the time. Because when you chase money all the time, the gifts and talents of God go untapped and they go undeveloped. Why?

Because you can't serve 2 masters, you either run after Gods way of living or the devils way of living (getting stuff) which is the worlds way. You can't run after 2 different things, you run after money and the enemy will try to lead you away from that which is gifted that will give you a platform to speak to people that you never have had before.

You and I were children of darkness until we were "Born Again", then we became the children of light. Once we become the children of light, God will send us into the places of darkness so that you and I can bring the light. That is called bringing the blessing and removing the curse.

If we are looking at the righteousness of God, and desiring to go there....if you want to go to another level you are going to have to eat at another level.

Eating at another level means: getting onto the meat of the Word and off of the milk. Stop listening to wimpy sermons and teachings, story telling...its the Word that will change you, the Word will challenge your carnal man.

Now, when Gods people were in Egypt the bible says in Exodus the Israelites sat by the flesh pots (that's where they got their food). They ate slave food or in today's vernacular - they ate vegetables.

Then, when they went into the wilderness, notice God changed their diets. If you want to go further with God, you are going to have to change diets.

You're going to have to hear something more than you heard before. You are going to eat something different than you ever have before – you have to change diets. Now, they first switched to manna in the wilderness then when they went to Canaan it got cut off in Joshua chapter 5 and now they were on fruit.

If you want to go higher, it's my job to feed you on a higher level. It's your job to start eating at a higher level.

So tonight, we are going to start eating at a higher level. At this level you are going to have to do a little more chewing. On the lower level I would give you a baby bottle and let you go at it by yourself, but on a higher level, you get the meat and I'm going to help you chew it.

But, you're not going to be able to chew it all up in one setting, you need to take it home and chew some there. The higher level requires more responsibility on your part. We study and learn here (church), you get the seed and the harvest but you need to learn to go home with some seed and harvest it on your own. Start to read and apply the Word. This goes back to muscle memory, repetition and more repetition until we don't even have to think about it anymore and we just do it.

Now righteousness comes to us through the new creation and it takes away the sin consciousness that robbed us of our confidence and assurance in God. Righteousness restores man into a right standing with God.

Just like Jesus, who was our example, who can stand before God without a sense of unworthiness (remember come boldly before the throne of Grace - you belong there). Jesus was first the son of God, He knew who He was. He was fearless before the Father and Satan and we are joint heirs with Him.

Now fear, is an interesting thing. Fear will paralyze you and cause you not to want to go any further. It will cause you to not show initiative. It will control your thoughts and what you do.

That's what a snake does; he bites his victim first and injects the poison to paralyze you. So you'll be easy prey later.

Fear is not from God, the scripture says:

2 Timothy 1:7 King James Version

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Any fear that you have, you need to hunt it down and drive it out of your life. Because fear gives power to whatever you fear. Fear is a spiritual force and spiritual forces are designed to control natural things. That's why God warned us about fear – it not only paralyzes but it gives strength to what ever you fear.

You have to watch fearing your “stuff”, losing your earthly possessions, losing friendships, jobs etc. Job feared and just about lost everything that he had and almost lost his life.

People fear death, fear old age, fear poverty, fear rejection, fear sickness...but, we have to get that all out of our life. I'm talking about not fearing anything. Well somebody might say, "a little fear is healthy". You go over to the book of Revelations and it says all these *things* (fear) are going to be thrown into the lake.

Revelation 21:8 King James Version

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Fear is not there to compliment your life, fear is there to paralyze your life and give strength to the enemy who's coming against your life. So, you can not fear! I don't care what the situation is, you might get a bad doctors report and once you feel that fear coming upon you, you need to do something about it. Sometimes, people fear rejection. If you want to get rid of fear, get the knowledge of God in you.

Let's look at this in the natural. If someone thinks they're having a heart attack this is the progression of action steps: You go to the doctor, have tests and the doctor says your hearts fine, blood fine, sugars fine. The only thing you had was some heart burn and it was probably something you ate... so you say whew! So what just happened? why did you say whew? Fear just left. Why? Because of the knowledge you now have.

The same thing came happen but on a higher level in the spirit realm. The enemy doesn't want you to have knowledge because he knows the fear will leave. **He needs fear like God needs faith.** So, what I want you to remember is no matter who is coming at you, situation with the doctor, what your bills look like, your kids making the wrong choices. *God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

2 Timothy 1:7 King James Version

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Now, in the natural it is the same thing. The biggest thing happening in the church today is that righteousness (right standing with God by doing what is right) has not been established so people are fearful. But Jesus, did not fear anything because 'the righteous are as bold as a lion'.

Proverbs 28:1 King James Version

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Everywhere that Jesus went, He was master over the devil and all of his forces. Jesus was fearless in the storms and in the face of disaster. He ruled over the laws of nature, and all of this because of the Righteousness of God. Jesus said the same nature that is within me is now within you. (remember He emptied himself of all diving privileges). The same ability possessing Him is now possessing you. He did all these things to be an example of how you can operate.

He had no fear in calling out to Lazarus when he was dead and in the presence of all those people. He put His ministry on the line and said Lazarus come forth. No sense of fear in the presence of death, He didn't feel like death was superior to HIM.

When He spoke to a lame man, a blind man, a hurting man, Jesus commanded that he be made whole and he was made whole. Jesus had no lack, lack of what? Lack of love, lack of peace, lack of knowledge of His rights as a child of God.

Jesus only said and did what the father told him to do...that is the book of John. If God didn't tell Him to do it or say it, Jesus didn't. If it wasn't time or if it wasn't Gods plan Jesus wouldn't do it.

Just a reminder...

John 14:10 King James Version

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

John 12:49 Amplified Bible

49 This is because I have never spoken on My own authority or of My own accord or as self-appointed, but the Father Who sent Me has Himself given Me orders [concerning] what to say and what to tell.

Jesus had no sense of guilt, He had no sense of condemnation, no sin consciousness was in His life. He fed the multitude, He healed the sick, he made the lame to walk and the blind to see, He even released a woman who had been caught in the very act of adultery and He said ‘woman go and sin no more.’ So righteousness restores all those things to you, it’s because of the knowledge of God.

The devil is a liar ! I don’t want you to have any fear **when God says** get out of the boat. When He says you can walk on water, you can walk on water. When He says give and it shall be given unto you - you can bank on that.

When you are at a right standing with God you can say that. Why? **The righteous are as bold as a lion. The righteous fear nothing. The lion is not all roar with no bite, he has a reputation of attacking, he is a doer and that’s why when he roars the others tremble.**

We, those who are righteous have an opportunity to roar at work, at home and in this highly charged political climate as well. The scripture says, that we, the righteous, the ones with the knowledge of God are called to be salt and light. Light exposes what is wrong, salt irritates but praise God it preserves. We need to preserve this country and it’s Godly principles. We need to protect our families, our places of work, our children as we bring the Blessing of God to the places that God has planted us for a season.