

The Contrast: Righteousness and Condemnation

Creflo Dollar

Broadcast Dates: 10/5/19 & 10/6/19

Message Date: 6/23/19 • 10:00 A.M.

Scripture References

John 1:17

Romans 6:14

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 2:15, *AMPC*

Romans 3:10, 19, 21, 22

Galatians 3:6

Deuteronomy 6:25

Romans 5:17

Hebrews 5:12, 13

Genesis 21:8-10

Romans 10:4

Romans 8:1

John 8:10,11

Summary

*Correctly analyzing and rightly dividing the Word of God reveals to us numerous differences between the Law of Moses and the grace that Jesus Christ brought. Examples of those contrasts are the definitions of righteousness and condemnation under the law versus under grace. Under the law, righteousness came by our works; under grace, it comes through faith in Jesus Christ and **His** works. Grace makes us right with God not because of what we do, but because of our faith in what Jesus did. The law condemns us when we sin, and the law is what is preached from most pulpits. What was true under the law is no longer true under grace; the truth now is that our righteousness comes from Jesus, and we cannot sin it away, no matter what we do. When we cling to this knowledge and have faith in it, we mature spiritually.*

A. We must know the differences between the dispensations of the law and of grace.

1. Now that Jesus has come, we should be living under the grace and truth that came by Him. We are no longer to live under the law.
 - a. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).
 - b. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).
2. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - a. We must rightly divide between the Law of Moses and the grace that came by Jesus Christ.
3. Study *and* be eager *and* do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing *and* accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15, *AMPC*).
 - a. If we can *rightly* divide the Word, we can also *wrongly* divide it. How we analyze and divide the Word determines if we believe right, and live right.

B. Before, man's righteousness depended on his actions. Now, it depends on our faith.

1. As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be

stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God...But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 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 (Romans 3:10, 19, 21, 22).

- a. Under the law, the people had to *do* right to *be* right. By comparison, under grace, we are righteous by faith because of what Jesus did.
 - b. The Law of Moses was written exclusively for Jewish people. It was given only to them, and no one else.
 - c. Now, righteousness is available to anyone who believes.
 - d. Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Galatians 3:6).
 - e. Under the law, righteousness is based on behavior; under grace, it is based on what Jesus did. Therefore, we cannot sin away our righteousness.
2. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us (Deuteronomy 6:25).
 - a. Before the cross, the people were only righteous if they met all the conditions of the law. Religion condemns us if we cannot do them.
 3. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).
 - a. After the cross, righteousness is a gift. We cannot earn a gift; we receive it by faith.

C. When we understand new-covenant righteousness, we grow and mature as Christians.

1. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe (Hebrews 5:12, 13).
 - a. Understanding righteousness causes us to mature. A mature Christian understands that he is still righteous even when he does not do right.
 - b. We all miss the mark sometimes; therefore, we all need a Savior.
2. And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac (Genesis 21:8-10).
 - a. Sarah represents the new covenant of grace. Isaac represents the fruit of grace; he was born without self-effort. Hagar represents the old covenant of the law; Ishmael represents self-effort, bondage, and the fruits of the law.
 - b. When Isaac matured, the law—and the fruits of the law—were kicked out. Only the new covenant and its fruits remained.
 - c. It is the same with us. When we mature in righteousness, we put out self-effort, shame, and guilt. The only thing that remains is faith and the fruit of the new covenant.
3. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth (Romans 10:4).
 - a. Once we get born again, our righteousness is no longer based on the Law of Moses, but on our belief in Jesus.

- b. Before the cross, Adam's sin meant condemnation for everyone. After the cross, this changed.
- c. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1).
- d. Jesus gave the free gift of no condemnation to the woman caught in adultery.
- e. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more (John 8:10, 11).
- f. We must stand up against the spirit of condemnation.

Category: grace

Keywords: contrast, righteousness, condemnation, grace, law, faith, condemns