

The Importance of Understanding Righteousness

Creflo Dollar

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Scripture References:

- 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Deuteronomy 28:1, 2
- Exodus 20:24
- Romans 1:16, 17
- Matthew 16:18
- Romans 5:17
- Romans 5:17, *NLT*
- Acts 20:24
- Hebrews 5:12, 13
- Hebrews 5:12, 13, *NLT*
- Proverbs 4:7
- Genesis 21:8-10
- Matthew 9:17
- Mark 2:22
- Luke 5:37, 38
- Revelation 3:15, 16
- 1 John 4:17

To be considered righteous in God's eyes, we must understand the importance of building our lives on the right foundation. God is seen throughout the entire Bible, but a real understanding of righteousness under the covenant of grace only comes by reading it through the lens of the finished works of Jesus Christ.

Notes:

1. For a firm foundation in life, we must build on what Jesus did, not on what we do. Jesus is our unshakeable foundation. God promises to build *us* on the revelation of who Jesus Christ is. With that kind of foundation, nothing can shake us.
2. The knowledge that Jesus makes us righteous, and that righteousness is a gift from God, frees us from self-condemnation and from the feeling that whatever we do will not be enough to earn our righteousness. We will not feel pressured to work for something that has already been made available to us.
3. An understanding of righteousness causes three things: it causes us to rule in life; it causes us to be spiritually mature; and it makes us righteousness-conscious instead of sin-conscious.
4. The gospel is the good news about the grace of God that has come to us because of Jesus; it's the good news that we have righteousness and forgiveness. The gospel of Christ, not a mixture of self-effort and Jesus, is the power of God.
5. If we haven't been taught or trained to be conscious of our righteousness, we'll focus exclusively on sin. This strips us of our joy, peace, and confidence, and fills us with condemnation. When we believe who we are in Jesus and accept our righteousness in Him, our behavior begins to improve.

Category: righteousness/salvation

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