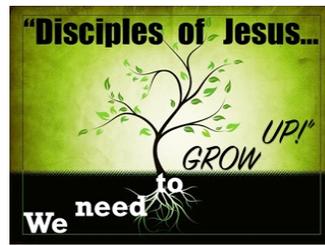


“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”



Part 12: “JUSTIFICATION ... righteous in Christ before God!”

Romans 3:21-31, 4:1-16; Galatians 2:15-21

Introduction: “Righteous” = “the quality of being morally right ... being perfect, possessing righteousness.”

The Lord’s Supper is the Gospel made visible ... a reminder of the truth that through faith in Jesus Christ I have been redeemed by His blood!

By the grace and wisdom of God believers are “credited” with the righteousness of Christ by faith.

It is not enough to take away the guilt of our sin. We NEED righteousness !!

I. Becoming righteous by any means other than faith in Jesus Christ is impossible!!

Romans 3:9-12: “ None is righteous, no, not one ...” (vs. 10).

Though saved by grace, many keep on trying to BECOME righteous through religious activities like the Lord’s Supper.

Even the church has fallen prey to a “ works -righteousness” that inevitably fails to produce true righteousness.

Romans 3:20: “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight ...”

Romans 3:28: “For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

Galatians 2:15-16: “ ... we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ ...” (vs. 16).

The church went “off course” by failing to understand God’s Word and to accept the authority of Scripture.

James 2:14-17, 21-26: “You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone” (vs. 24).

Paul used the word “justified” in a legal sense, referring to our moral standing before GOD ... being righteous in GOD’s sight.

James used the word “justified” in a strictly personal sense in order to make the point that you can’t just SAY you have faith and so “justify” yourself without any evidence of having been born again. (Romans 6:1-2)

We celebrate the truth of the Gospel, of which the Lord’s Supper is a sign, EVERY week ... every DAY!

II. God CREDITS the righteousness of Christ to His people by grace through faith!!

Galatians 2:20-21: “ ... for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose!” (vs. 21).

Romans 1:16-17: “For in the Gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith ...” (vs. 17).

Romans 3:21-26: “ ... justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (vs. 24).

Believing in Jesus, FAITH, means that I receive as a gift the perfect righteousness of Christ as mine.

True faith is knowledge that leads to trust ...

By faith I trust that God’s promise is true: that the righteousness of Christ has been “credited” to ME.

Romans 4:3,5,16: “To the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness” (vs. 5).

The only righteousness that can stand in God’s presence is the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, and I receive it by faith alone !!

You don’t BECOME righteous by faith ... you are “ counted righteous by faith.”

Romans 10:1-4, 17: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ” (vs. 17).

III. Believers will BECOME righteous by the supernatural power of God when we leave this world!!

I John 3:1-3: “ ... we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is!” (vs. 2).

Romans 8:28-30: “ ... And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified !!” (vs. 30).