

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2023**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES**

Message Two

The Righteousness of God Revealed in the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Rom. 1:16-17; 3:24; Matt. 5:20; 6:33; 1 John 1:9; Phil. 3:9

I. Righteousness is the foundation of God's throne—Psa. 89:14; 97:2:

- A. Righteousness is related to God's outward acts, ways, actions, and activities; everything God does is righteous—Rev. 15:3.
- B. Righteousness is being right with persons, things, and matters before God according to His righteousness and strict requirements—Matt. 5:20; 1 Cor. 15:34.
- C. Righteousness is a matter of God's kingdom—Matt. 6:33:
 - 1. Righteousness issues from God for His administration—Psa. 89:14; 97:2; Isa. 32:1.
 - 2. Righteousness is related to God's government, administration, and rule.
- D. Righteousness is a matter of being right with God in our being—2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:21; 10:3-4:
 - 1. To be right with God in our being is to have an inner being that is transparent and crystal clear—an inner being in the mind and will of God—12:2; Rev. 21:21.
 - 2. To be righteous in this way is to become the righteousness of God in Christ—2 Cor. 5:21.

II. The key word concerning the gospel of God in the book of Romans is in 1:17—"the righteous shall have life and live by faith":

- A. The gospel of God is powerful because the righteousness of God is revealed in it—vv. 16-17.
- B. The salvation of God in the Gospel of John is of God's love as its source (3:16) and in Ephesians is by God's grace as its element (2:5, 8), but in Romans it is by God's righteousness as its base (1:17).
- C. God's righteousness is the way of His acts—Psa. 103:6-7:
 - 1. It is related to God's laws, regulations, and principles; hence, it is a judicial matter.
 - 2. It indicates that the gospel of God is judicial according to the way of God's righteousness.
 - 3. It fulfills the requirements for God to execute His salvation.
 - 4. Hence, it is the key of the gospel of God being powerful (dynamic)—Rom. 1:16-17.
 - 5. Thus, it is revealed in the gospel of God as its foundation, solid and steadfast as the foundation of God's throne—v. 17; Psa. 89:14.
 - 6. Romans 3:24 says that God's justification is also by His grace freely:
 - a. God's justification by His righteousness in the judicial way is the procedure to fulfill God's righteous requirement that God could justify the sinners righteously.

- b. God's justification by His grace freely is the means for God to fulfill His purpose that He may give His life to His chosen people to make them like Him in His life and nature—cf. 5:10, 17-18, 21.
- D. The lawkeepers attempt to keep the law for the building up of their own righteousness (9:31; 10:3), but “out of the works of the law no flesh shall be justified before Him [God]”—3:20.
- E. Our experience of Christ rests on the foundation of God's righteousness—Psa. 89:14:
 - 1. God's righteousness is the unshakable foundation of God's throne—97:2.
 - 2. God has shown forth His righteousness by forgiving our sins—1 John 1:9:
 - a. If our conscience condemns us because of our failures, we need to remember to stand upon the foundation of God's righteousness—Psa. 89:14; 97:2.
 - b. Whenever we confess our sins, claim the blood of Jesus, and appeal to God's righteousness, God has no choice except to forgive us—1 John 1:7.

III. Paul wanted to have the righteousness which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith—Phil. 3:9:

- A. Not having his own righteousness but having the righteousness which is out of God was the condition in which Paul desired to be found in Christ—v. 9; cf. Job 1:1, 8; 2:3; 42:5-6:
 - 1. Paul wanted to live not in his own righteousness but in the righteousness of God and to be found in such a transcendent condition, expressing God by living Christ—Phil. 3:9; 1:20.
 - 2. Paul's desire was to be observed as a person living in Christ and having Christ as his righteousness—Rom. 5:21.
- B. There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers:
 - 1. The first aspect—to be the believers' righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ—3:24-26; Acts 13:39; Gal. 3:24b, 27.
 - 2. The second aspect—to be the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively—Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24a; James 2:24; Matt. 5:20; Rev. 19:8.
 - 3. These two aspects are typified by the garments in Luke 15:22 and Matthew 22:11-12.
- C. The subjective righteousness of God in Philippians 3:9 is actually God Himself becoming our daily living, a living that is right with God and man:
 - 1. Paul did not want to live in his own righteousness, the righteousness that comes from man's own effort to keep the law—vv. 6, 9.
 - 2. Our own righteousness is the expression of ourselves, the living out of ourselves.
 - 3. Paul desired to live in the righteousness of God and to be found in such a transcendent condition, expressing God by living Christ, not by keeping the law—cf. Matt. 5:20.
 - 4. The living that is right with both God and man must be God as our expression in our daily living, God Himself lived out through us—2 Cor. 3:9; Rev. 19:7-8.