

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Relating to the Righteousness of God

How would you feel if you knew you were as you ought to be before the eyes of God? He is looking at you, examining you from the inside out, and saying, “I approve of you.” To be so assured is the most positive feeling that could be imagined by a human standing before God, the Creator.

Being right before God is what being righteous is all about. Seeking to know how you relate to the righteousness of God should be priority in your life. Knowing it, you should then endeavor to cultivate a God-approved relationship with Him the rest of your sojourn on earth.

Our Creator has not left us clueless as to knowing how we relate to the righteousness of God. Neither has He left us hopeless and discouraged by indicating that once you know how you relate, you will never be able to sustain an approving relationship before His demanding Holy eyes.

The approving righteousness of God was forecasted in the Old Testament law and foreshadowed by the prophets. His suffering and sacrificial death was foreshadowed and then fulfilled (Acts 3:18). Paul declared in his day, “*But now apart from the law a righteousness of God hath been manifested, being witnessed by*

the law and the prophets” (Romans 3:21). We therefore know for sure that God’s righteousness is related to the death of Jesus, His Son, which was prophesied in the Old Testament law. We also know that the righteousness of God is found apart from the law...

We do not have to ascend to heaven to find God’s righteousness because God has revealed it in “*the word of faith*” that is “*preached*” on earth. God has reached down with His righteousness, and we connect with His approval through faith. Through “*faith in Christ’s blood,*” who is set forth as a “*propitiation*” or “*appeasement*” of God’s wrath, we are confident in being justified from our sins (Romans 3:25). Confessing Jesus as Lord because in our hearts we believe that Christ was raised from the dead, we “*believe unto righteousness*” (Romans 10:9-10).

Knowing where and in whom we receive God’s approving righteousness, we must “*submit*” to God’s standard of righteousness. We are no longer ignorant of God’s righteousness, for it has been revealed. We dare not establish our own righteousness, for it will not avail before God. We must therefore “*subject ourselves to the righteousness of God*” (Romans 10:3).

Believing Christ in our hearts, and confessing Him as Lord with our mouth, we are ready to have our body immersed in water, being baptized into Jesus’ death. In baptism, we manifest our faith in Jesus’ blood where the righteousness of God is found. We rise from the water of baptism with a new resolve in life. We no longer use the members of our body unto “*unrighteousness*” but present them as “*instruments of righteousness unto God*” (Romans 6:3-4; 13). As Christians, we are no longer obeying sin unto death, but manifest “*obedience unto righteousness,*” by presenting ourselves as “*servants to righteousness unto sanctification*” (Romans 6: 16,19).

Jesus’ death and resurrection is the basis for God’s approving righteousness. Responding in obedience of faith, which is culminated in baptism, we “*become the righteousness of God in Christ*” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Then, we live sanctified and holy lives presenting ourselves as servants to righteousness. Nowhere in the completed picture of God’s righteousness does God say, “I will put my righteousness on you, if you believe.” Nowhere in revealed Scripture does God connect us with His approving righteousness, by imputing Christ’s perfect life to our account.