



Day 8 Devotional - "Righteousness" in the Book of Romans – 11/01/2023

Paul who wrote the letter to the Romans is often portrayed as the "apostle of justification", teaching about the imputed righteousness of Christ (meaning we are made righteous because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ - it is his holiness, goodness, blameless life, His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, that gives us eternal life, holiness, and righteousness). Romans clearly explains that God alone saves, only God justifies and makes us righteous, and this only by FAITH (Rom 1:16-17 NLT - For I am not ashamed of this Good

News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes — the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life.")

Romans also has much to say about God's vision for a just world. In Romans, Abraham is held up as an example of a believer who trusts God, and this trust is credited as covenantal righteousness (Rom 4:3,9). The believer in Christ is humble and surrendered to God, desiring to be transformed by the Spirit and to be conformed to the Son of God. In Romans 1 to 4, Paul's discussion of righteousness is about being right WITH GOD through reconciliation by faith in Jesus Christ. But as we journey further into Romans a wider perspective comes into view - Redemption is portrayed as a NEW LIFE OF SERVICE to God; believers are no longer in bondage to sin and death, but to righteousness (Rom 6:16). So, in contrast to a life of sin and death, righteousness is an obedient and meaning-filled, justice-filled life. In Romans 6:19, Paul explains that the righteous life is a consecrated life, a sanctified life and reflects the holiness of God.

MEDITATE:

Are you living a righteous life that is consecrated, separated, and set apart for God? Consider how we can reflect the holiness of God to people around us.

What does a new life of service to God look like? How can you walk and live that life today?

PRAY & DECLARE: Psalm 23 - The Lord is my SHEPHERD, I have all that I need. Holy Spirit lead me into your will, purposes, purity and examine my heart; set me apart for your kingdom and righteous purposes. I pray for divine meetings where I can share your goodness and mercy to people who need and desire a relationship with you. Amen.

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