

The Good News of the Gospel – Part 3

[7]

-Justification & Righteousness by Faith-

***Stop** – Important to do Lesson part 2 first

**Remember to pray for wisdom before you begin*

***OT = Old Testament**

1.) In starting out this subject, what important question does Job ask about humans being made right with God? **Job 9:1** Then Job answered and said, 2 I know it is so of a truth: but how _____ man be _____ with God? **Job 25:4** How then can man be _____ with God? Or how can he be _____ that is born of a woman?

2.) Is there any way we can make our own selves righteous? **Jeremiah 2:22** For though thou _____ thee with nitre, and take thee much _____, yet thine iniquity is _____ before me, saith the Lord GOD. **Job 14:4** Who can bring a _____ thing out of an _____? not one. **Isaiah 64:6** But we are all as an _____ thing, and all our righteousnesses are as _____ rags; and we _____ do fade as a leaf; and our _____, like the wind, have taken us _____. **NOTE: It is absolutely impossible for any human being to save themselves or to manufacture righteousness on their own! It must come completely outside of ourselves! This is why salvation is totally a free gift. Practically every false religion of this world teaches in some form or another that we can in some way earn our way to heaven or do enough good works as to merit everlasting life. The very premise of this teaching savors of selfishness and it is selfishness that lies at the core of all sin of which we are trying to escape from. Do you see the dilemma? Fortunately, we serve an infinitely wise God who has formulated the right plan to extricate ourselves from the snare of sin and its results without the motivation of selfishness in the process of removing it! Hence the Good News of the Gospel! Let's learn how it all works!**

3.) Is there any hope for us if we were left to ourselves? **John 3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, _____ a man be born of water and of the _____, he _____ enter into the kingdom of God. **Romans 7:18** For I know that in me (that is, in my _____,) dwelleth no _____ thing: for to will is present with me; but _____ to _____ that which is good I find not. **Romans 7:24** O _____ man that I am! Who shall _____ me from the body of this _____? **NOTE: No question that we have come into this world with depraved fallen natures and that without Divine outside intervention and becoming born again, we are doomed to be lost! But as you have seen from the previous lesson on "Defining Guilt and Sin," God has set in place a marvelous plan of salvation to redeem us back from the ruin of sin. Even though we have naturally depraved sinful natures, it is not a barrier to us for making wise choices (which God has restored to us by installing the plan of Salvation as soon as Adam & Eve sinned) but set in operation a way for God to forgive and cleanse us from evil.**

- 4.) What special promises does God give us for forgiveness and cleansing from sin? 1John 1:9
 ___ we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just to _____ us our sins, and to
 _____ us from all unrighteousness. Psalm 32:5 I _____ my sin unto
 thee, and mine iniquity have I not _____. I said, I will _____ my transgressions unto the
 LORD; and thou _____ the iniquity of my sin. Selah. **NOTE: Notice the “if” word at
 the beginning. We must sense our need, repent and then confess our sin(s). He has
 promised to forgive & cleanse and He will. Notice the last promise in Psalm 32. This is in
 the Old Testament. Is being saved and receiving a new heart any different back then as
 compared to the Gospel of the New Testament? Of course, they had the system of animal
 sacrifices and sanctuary services to remind them of the Messiah and Savior to come, but
 the same repentance, faith in the merits of a coming Savior, heart-felt confession was still
 a process of Salvation by grace through faith. They weren’t saved any differently from us!
 Let’s notice some evidence for this in the next few questions of our study.**
- 5.) Did Abraham understand and experience righteousness by faith? Genesis 15:6 And he
 believed in the LORD; and he _____ it to him for _____. **NOTE: Remember
 how Abraham had made some serious blunders over and over again even lying and trying
 to do things his way when he tried to have a son through Hagar in order to have a special
 son of promise who would carry on the blessings of a special nation to represent God. But
 in spite of all his mistakes, he grew in grace and exercised a faith that God considered
 righteous. This was climatically demonstrated when he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, his
 only begotten son. Through this experience he understood more fully the role of God in
 sending His own Son as the Messiah to redeem the fallen race.**
- 6.) What did the Bible writer Habakkuk have to say about those who wholly follow the
 LORD? Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the _____
 shall _____ by his _____. **NOTE: Those in Old Testament times who were truly good and
 upright lived victoriously by faith! Hebrews chapter 11 known as the Bible’s “Hall of
 Faith” commemorates a long list of *OT men and women who were people of faith and
 looked forward to the Messiah & Redeemer to come. Read it when you have time.**
- 7.) What does the Apostle Paul have to say about the faith of Abraham as well as the faith
 of the Old Testament character David? Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham
 believed God, and it was _____ unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that
 worketh is the reward not reckoned of _____, but of _____. 5 But to him that worketh
 not, but believeth on him that _____ the ungodly, his _____ is counted for
 righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God
 _____ righteousness without works, 7 Saying, _____ are they whose
 iniquities are _____, and whose sins are _____. 8 Blessed is the man to whom
 the Lord will not _____ [To attribute; to ascribe] sin. **NOTE: When Abraham believed, it
 was “counted” unto him as though he were righteous. In other words, it was “credited”
 to his account. Whose account was it credited from? It was Jesus who came to this world**

and lived a perfect, flawless, holy and righteous life. Not only was Jesus' death vitally important in our place but also His perfect sinless life. He lived a perfect life not only to be an example for us in the Sanctification process, but so it could also be credited to our account. We may still be imperfect in our growth process but when the heavenly Father sees us, He sees only the character of His beloved Son when He is interceding for us in the heavenly sanctuary as our great High Priest. So, at each imperfect stage in our Christian growth we are covered by the blood of Christ. Keep in mind that this becomes null and void anytime we cherish or harbor known sin in our lives. The blood of Christ covers only confessed sins and sins of ignorance. The Word of God is very clear about this. God will never be a partner to deliberate and known willful sin.

8.) What was the desire of the God of heaven for the salvation of the human race? Isaiah 45:22 _____ unto me, and be ye _____, all the ends of the _____: for I am God, and there is none else. 24 Surely, shall one say, _____ the LORD have I _____ and _____: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. 25 _____ the LORD shall _____ the seed of Israel be _____, and shall glory. **NOTE: Where does any of our righteousness come from? Notice above that God says "Come unto Me, and be ye saved." It says "in the Lord have I righteousness and strength." In the LORD people will be "justified" or forgiven as it says in verse 25.**

9.) In what beautiful way does the OT book of Isaiah portray the Gospel of grace through Jesus? Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded _____ our _____, he was bruised _____ our iniquities: the _____ of our peace was _____ him; and with his _____ we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his _____ way; and the LORD hath _____ on him the _____ of us all. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant _____ many; for he shall _____ their iniquities. **NOTE: One Christian author stated it beautifully this way. "He was treated as we deserve, in order that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. 'With His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5.'" The Desire of Ages 208, 209**

10.) How is the Gospel beautifully portrayed by Moses during the children of Israel's wilderness wandering after coming out of Egypt? Numbers 21:9 And _____ made a _____ of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had _____ any man, when he _____ the serpent of brass, he _____. **NOTE: Interesting how Jesus picked up on this incident from the writings of Moses. John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the _____ in the wilderness, even so must the _____ of _____ be lifted up: 15 That whosoever _____ in him should not _____, but have _____ life. NOTE: First of all, the serpent represents Jesus who took on Himself the likeness of "sinful flesh" and "became sin" for us. Galatians 3:13 Christ hath**

_____ us from the curse of the law, being _____ a curse for _____.: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: **When we look to Him who took our place of punishment for us we can be healed and live. This illustration during Moses leadership in the wilderness was one of the plainest lessons to the Israelites that salvation even back then was solely a free undeserved gift that could not be earned! Even Jesus used this incident in the Old Testament to illustrate His free gift of grace.**

11.) What does Jeremiah teach about the Messiah to come who would bring salvation and righteousness? Jeremiah 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous _____, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be _____, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his _____ whereby he shall be called, _____. **NOTE: This BRANCH and King who comes to reign and prosper was none other than Jesus –the Son of God. We also see this same title name mentioned in Zechariah 3:8 and in the verses before that. (See next question #12)**

12.) What beautiful scenario on God’s beautiful grace do we also see from the Old Testament in regards to Joshua the high priest when Satan was challenging him? Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest _____ before the angel of the LORD, and _____ standing at his right hand to _____ him. 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD _____ thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen _____ rebuke thee: is not this a brand _____ out of the fire? 3 Now Joshua was clothed with _____ garments, and stood before the angel. 4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take _____ the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have _____ thine iniquity to _____ from thee, and I will _____ thee with change of raiment. NOTE: Satan wants to keep as many people from being saved as possible so he tries to accuse us before God. But the good news is that Jesus who has taken our humanity, lived a perfect, beautiful life will joyfully apply His free righteousness to the repentant sinners’ account. This is what we see here in this situation.

13.) Let’s now turn to the New Testament, but as we do, let’s look at what the Apostle Paul has to say about what is involved in genuine repentance which is a condition to receiving forgiveness and the righteousness of Christ. 2Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made _____, but that ye sorrowed to _____: for ye were made sorry after a _____ manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to _____ not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the _____ worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what _____ it wrought in you, yea, what _____ of _____, yea, what _____, yea, what _____, yea, what vehement _____, yea, what _____, yea, what _____! In all things ye have _____ yourselves to be _____ in this matter. NOTE: Being truly sorry for our sins will cause us to exhibit all these qualities of sincere deep remorse for sin in what we have done to hurt others but

especially to have hurt our best friend Jesus! But keep in mind that even REPENTANCE is a FREE GIFT from our gracious God! We should ask for it. Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to _____ to Israel, and _____ of sins. **Acts 11:18** When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles _____ repentance unto _____.

14.) In the gospel of Luke what two thieves gave a perfect example of justification and sincerely repented of their sins and received complete forgiveness from Jesus? Luke 19:8 And _____ stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my _____ I give to the poor; and if I have _____ anything from any man by _____ accusation, I restore him _____. **9** And Jesus said unto him, This _____ is _____ come to this house, forasmuch as he _____ is a son of Abraham. **Luke 23:40** But the other answering _____ him, saying, Dost not thou _____ God, seeing thou art in the same _____? **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due _____ of our deeds: but this man hath done _____ amiss. **42** And he said unto Jesus, Lord, _____ me when thou comest into thy kingdom. **43** And Jesus said unto him, _____ [truly] I say unto thee today, shalt thou be with me in _____. **NOTE:** **One of these thieves met Jesus while up in a tree, the other was hanging on a "tree" (cross). Both deeply repented of their past life of sin. Notice how Zacchaeus was willing to go the second mile to make restitution and the thief on the cross rebuked the unrepentant thief while profoundly taking blame for the predicament they both were in. Both (repentant thieves) received the assurance that very day that they were forgiven and made a new creation ready for eternal life.**

15.) In a well-known NT scripture how does Paul state we are made right with God as well as transformed and changed? Ephesians 2:8 For by _____ are ye _____ through _____; and that _____ of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: **9** Not of _____, lest any man should _____. **NOTE:** **As was stated near the beginning of our study, if we procured our salvation in our own way it would savor of selfishness and as verse 9 says we would boast about it. We would still be encumbered with self and sin and this would get us nowhere! At the same time the Apostle makes it clear in verse 10 that God created us for good works, but only through His grace where it is accomplished without the taint of self or sin. Verse 10** For we are his _____, created in Christ Jesus _____ good works, which God hath before _____ that we _____ walk in them. **Romans 3:27** Where is _____ then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of _____. **28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by _____ without the deeds of the _____. **NOTE:** **If good works or the keeping of God's great moral law is not a fruit found in our Christian experience then we simply are not born-again Christians or we have lost the true experience. On the other hand, anyone who attempts to obey the law in their own strength or under "obligation" to God in a legalistic fashion will not have a joy-filled experience and won't truly keep it in the spirit, neither are they truly converted. In either**

of these ditches we are in a lost condition. The bottom line in all of this is what is stated in an old expression, "we must have the horse before the cart and not the cart before the horse." There is only one specified way that we can be saved. The Bible is clear on this!

16.) If we do not earn salvation by keeping the law then what is the purpose of the law in the process of justification? Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the _____ saith, it saith to them who are under the _____: that every _____ may be stopped, and _____ the world may become _____ before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the _____ there shall _____ flesh be _____ in his sight: for by the law is the _____ of sin. **Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the _____ was our _____ to bring us unto _____, that we might be _____ by faith. **Galatians 5:4** Christ is become of no _____ unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the _____; ye are fallen from _____. **NOTE: Make no mistake, without law this world would fall into chaos and horrific evil! Even worldly games and sports must have rules or laws or there would be no purpose to the game! Even so, it is by God's law that we recognize our problems. But the law cannot save us. The law is like a mirror. We use it to see if there is any dirt or unkempt hair that needs to be cleaned or straightened. But we don't use the mirror to scrape the dirt off our face. So it is with the law. It shows us our sin, then we go to our Savior who can remedy our sin through forgiveness and restoration. If there were no law –there would be no sin. If there were no sin, then we would have no need of a Savior. Hence, the law is very important but it serves only a certain purpose!**

17.) The law mentioned in Galatians pertains to either or both the moral law (Ten Commandments) and the ceremonial law. It was the ceremonial laws that were nailed to the cross but the moral law is eternally binding. But neither can earn us salvation. How does Paul bring this out? Galatians 3:21 Is the law then _____ the promises of God? God _____: for if there had been a law given which could have _____ life, verily righteousness should have been by the _____. **22** But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the _____ by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. **Hebrews 10:1** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can _____ with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto _____. **2** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once _____ should have had no more _____ of sins. **3** But in those sacrifices there is a _____ again made of Sins every year. **4** For it is not _____ that the blood of bulls and of goats should take _____ sins. **NOTE: Before the Lamb of God (Jesus) came down in the flesh, the animal sacrifices and all the rituals and ceremonies that pertained to them were a spiritual and theological training school that would make the plan of salvation more meaningful and real until the actual Lamb would come. And as stated earlier, the (moral) law served the purpose as a standard of righteousness and identifying sin so that the sinner would be driven to the Substitute Sacrifice in his place.**

18.) Why did Israel of old fail to attain to true righteousness and even fail to recognize Jesus when He came? Romans 9:31 But _____, which _____ after the law of righteousness, _____ attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by _____, but as it were by the _____ of the _____. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; **NOTE: Not only did the Jewish religion degenerate into a legalistic form but it started coming up with its own rules and regulations which became a depressing burden and galling yoke to all its adherents. Even Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for all their man-made rules. Mark 7:7 Howbeit in _____ do they worship me, _____ for doctrines the _____ of _____.** 8 For laying _____ the Commandment of God, ye hold the _____ of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye _____ the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own _____. **NOTE: Unfortunately, today many of our religious organizations are actually observing or following man-made rules, customs, teachings and traditions and shockingly many laced with the roots of paganism! Learn more about this in other upcoming Bible studies.**

19.) Whose righteousness should we emulate and desire to be changed by? Philippians 3:9 And be _____ in him, not having mine _____ righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is _____ the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by _____: **NOTE: What a wonderful thought that we can have Christ's beautiful character placed to our account even though we may be far from perfect! But not only that, this plan of salvation provides a marvelous way for us to become changed and transformed in heart and character according to His (Jesus') imparted righteousness. But this requires a totally surrendered heart that is sensitive and obedient to the moving of the Holy Spirit.**

20.) What special promise is given in the *OT book of Ezekiel of how God wants to make us into an entirely new person by His gift of righteousness? Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take you _____ among the heathen, and _____ you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 25 Then will I sprinkle _____ water upon you, and ye shall be _____: from all your _____, and from all your _____, will I cleanse you. 26 A new _____ also will I give you, and a new _____ will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart _____ of your flesh, and I will _____ you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my _____ within you, and _____ you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall _____ my judgments, and do them. **NOTE: There is nothing here that even hints at working out our righteousness and salvation on our own. This is something that God works out for us, but at the same time we must choose, surrender our hearts and place our wills on His side as we walk the path of obedience.**

21.) What similar New Testament promise of righteousness and victory do we see in Hebrews? Hebrews 10:16 This is the _____ that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will _____ my _____ into their _____, and in their _____ will I _____ them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember _____. **NOTE:**

The sinner will not only be forgiven, he or she will be cleansed from all unrighteousness. The plan of redemption encompasses the complete recovery of the sinner from the guilt, dominion of sin (law-breaking) as well as the penalty of sin which is eternal death. The final generation of men and women just before Jesus returns to this earth will not only be forgiven, they will be completely cleansed and purified from all sin and they will reflect the character of Christ. These are depicted in Revelation as the 144,000. Why not claim this beautiful promise above and let Jesus start doing that wonderful work in your heart now?

Brief Quiz

Circle One

- 1.) **True/ False** – We should crowd as many good works into our daily life so that we can be on God’s good side so He will forgive us.
- 2.) **True/False** – The law is unimportant because it causes us to be legalistic.
- 3.) **True/False** – Jesus lived a beautiful, sinless life that He credits to us when we sincerely repent and ask for His forgiveness.
- 4.) **True/False** – At every stage of our Christian growth we may be covered by the blood of Christ and claim His perfect righteousness.
- 5.) **True/False** – In the Old Testament, people had to obey all the laws and animal sacrifices in order to merit or deserve salvation.
- 6.) **True/False** – The moral law is like a mirror to show us our sin, so we can flee to Jesus.
- 7.) **True/False** – God has only one system in place by which we can be saved and in essence was the same plan ever since Adam & Eve fell into sin.
- 8.) **True/False** – Repentance or being truly sorry for my sins must come from within ourselves and not from God.

My Response

This subject of justification by faith helps me to realize what an amazing gift that God gave to us through His Son Jesus and that through His perfect righteousness lived here on earth and His subsequent death on the cross are all applied to my account. I want to show my deepest appreciation and praise to Him by allowing Him to have complete control of my life.

Signed _____