

November 10, 2013

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD 6 PT 2  
öGODöS REDEMPTIVE GLORYö  
II Corinthians 4: 3-6; Romans 1: 16-17

**This** message is a continuation of what I started last week. **We** are still looking at (Scriptural) reasons why the Righteousness of God (TROG) is the most important (single) piece of information that sinners need to know and understand. **We** saw three reasons last week why that is so.

**The** Righteousness of God is:

1. **God's** STANDARD of judgment. (Comment!)
2. **The** ONLY righteousness that can be communicated to sinners. (Comment)
3. **The** SOURCE of spiritual/eternal life.

**I want** to go back to the last point for a few additional comments.

**Look** at I John 2: 28-29 “**And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**

**29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”**

**In** ALL the universe there is but ONE whom God has declared righteous based on His obedience unto death. **Christ** died under the penalty and punishment of sin IMPUTED. **But,** His death put away sin. **His** death satisfied the law and justice of God. **His** death brought in everlasting righteousness. **God** raised Him from the dead. **He** lives because the righteousness He established DEMANDED His life. **He** lives because the righteousness He established DEMANDS the life of every sinner He died for. **He** is the LORD, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. **He** is the SOURCE of life. **Christ's** righteousness IMPUTED to the sinner is the ground (the SOURCE) of spiritual (eternal) life.

**Why** did Christ have to come to this earth? **Why** did He come? He came to ösave His people from their sinsö. **He** did NOT come to make His people ösavableö. **He** did NOT come to make a öwayö for His people to BE SAVED. **He** came to SAVE them. **He** came to SAVE His people from the end they DESERVED. **He** came to SAVE His people from the eternal death they were facing without His coming.

**What** did Christ do to save His people from their sins? **He** upheld God's STANDARD of judgment. **He** established righteousness in the earth. **Why** did He need to do that? **Because** God's STANDARD had NEVER been upheld before His coming.

**Without** His coming, there was NO righteousness in the earth. **“There** is none righteous, no not one.ö **From** Adam to the present, there is NONE that God can declare righteous based on their obedience. **From** eternity when God looked forward to fallen humanity, that is all He saw; ðNONE righteous, no not oneö.

**Here** is what I want to re-emphasize as we lead into this message. **Why** MUST Christ's righteousness IMPUTED be the SOURCE of (spiritual/eternal) life? **It** MUST BE. **Why** MUST it be? **It** MUST BE because BEFORE God can give a sinner (eternal) life, **He** must FIRST pronounce/declare that sinner (unchangeably) righteous in His sight.

**For** God to declare a sinner righteous on any basis but the imputed righteousness of Christ would be UNJUST. **Nothing** else measures up to God's STANDARD. **God** is JUST. **For** God to give (eternal) life on any OTHER basis, would DISHONOR His character as a Just God. **A Just** God and Savior would NOT be GLORIFIED in such a salvation.

**And**, God's chief design in salvation (as in all that He does) is His GLORY. **God** is not just seeking to save sinners (i.e. populate heaven). **He** is seeking to GLORIFY Himself in the salvation of sinners. **His** goal in salvation is to have a people in whose hearts He is glorified; **a people** who will know Him and worship Him in his (true) redemptive character, a Just God and a Savior; **a people** who will honor Christ as the ONE whose righteousness imputed enables Him to be so.

**We** are looking at REASONS why THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand. **Our** (first) REASON today is because: **TROG** is the only way EVERY attribute of God's character can be honored in the salvation of ungodly sinners. (**I.e.** TROG is the ONLY way God's Redemptive GLORY can be upheld in salvation.)

**God's** greatest GLORY is His Redemptive GLORY. **He** is glorified in creation (wisdom, power, faithfulness). **He** is glorified in providence (rules in armies...among

inhabitants of earth). **But**, His Redemptive GLORY is what IDENTIFIES Him. His Redemptive GLORY is what DISTINGUISHES Him from idols.

**Look at Isaiah 45: 21 “Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.”**

**Fallen** humanity has NO INTEREST in God's Redemptive GLORY. **Look** at Romans 3: 18 **“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**

**In** order for God to be GLORIFIED in salvation, the righteousness Christ has established; the righteousness by which God declares sinners righteous must be MADE KNOWN. **TROG** must be REVEALED, because the TROG is something the natural man has never heard of; **something** he has no interest in; **something** he has no value for.

**I know** that by experience because that was me in the religion of this world. **I** would have (gladly) gone on that way and did UNTIL God brought me to the Gospel and REVEALED (TROG) to me, and, then, by the Spirit IN me.

**Universal** atonement DENIES God's Redemptive GLORY. **Believing** that ANY sinner Christ died for will perish, DENIES what Christ's death ACCOMPLISHED (purged and put away sin, obtained redemption, brought in everlasting righteousness). **God**, the Father is just to justify EVERY sinner Christ died for. **And**, the Spirit of God is just to impart (eternal) life to EVERY sinner Christ died for BASED on/ BECAUSE of Christ's imputed righteousness ALONE. **THAT** is the salvation that honors God as a Just and a Savior, exalts Christ, and excludes boasting.

**If** any sinner has an interest in God's Redemptive GLORY, it is because God has given them an interest. **Look** at II Corinthians 4: 6 **“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”** BEFORE!

**TROG** is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand because: **TROG** is the only way EVERY attribute of God's character can be honored in the salvation of ungodly sinners.

**How** do sinners KNOW that Christ ALONE (in all the universe) is righteous? **Where** do sinners hear about an IMPUTED righteousness? **Where** do sinners hear

about TROG being the ONLY thing making the difference between saved and lost; **blessed** and cursed; **justified** and condemned? **Where** do sinners hear about the Redemptive GLORY of God? **They** hear it in the Gospel.

**THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand because: **TROG** is what makes the Gospel òthe power of God unto salvationö.

**Look** at Romans 1: 16-17 “**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

**17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**”

**The** most IMMEDIATE need of sinners is to hear the Gospel. **The** most IMMEDIATE need of sinners is to hear what Christ has done that makes it RIGHT for God to show mercy to sinners who have done NOTHING to deserve it. **The** most IMMEDIATE need of sinners is to hear TROG, which is ONLY and ALWAYS revealed in the Gospel.

**The** Gospel is a UNIQUE message. **It** is one of a kind. **It** is UNIQUE in (who) it reveals. **It** is òthe Gospel of Christö. **It** is a DECLARATION of His (unique) Person. **Christ** is ONE of a kind. **He** is the God-man.

**There** is no other like Him. **He** is the ONLY Person with two DISTINCT natures. **He** is both God and man in one Person. **He** is not PART man and PART God; but FULLY man and FULLY God. **His** two natures are not comingled. **They** are separate. **In Him** infinite deity and true (sinless) humanity exist in perfect harmony. **Look** at one context of scripture which declares these things to be true.

**Look** at Romans 1: 1-4 “**Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,**

**2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)**

**3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;**

**4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”**

**Christ** was òmadeö of the seed of Davidö. **That** speaks of His humanity. **But,** He was not òmadeö to be the Son of God. **He** was DELCARED to be the Son of God. **He** was ALWAYS the Son of God. **He** is the second Person of the Triune God, and, therefore, the eternal Son of God. **That** speaks of His deity.

He is declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection. If you remember Acts 17: 31 from last week, God assures all men that CHRIST'S righteousness is God's STANDARD of judgment. His resurrection DECLARES that He finished His work. It DECLARES that He made an end of sin and brought in everlasting righteousness as Daniel prophesied. It DECLARES that His sheep are justified on the basis of His righteousness IMPUTED (Rom 4: 25).

Only the God-man could put away the (eternal) punishment of sin. Only the God-man could establish an everlasting righteousness of infinite value. Only the God-man could HONOR God's Redemptive GLORY in the salvation of ungodly sinners.

The Gospel is UNIQUE because of (who) it reveals, the God-man. And, the Gospel is UNIQUE because of (what) it reveals.

Look back at Romans 1: 16-17 "**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

**17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**"

The Gospel reveals something NO OTHER message on earth reveals. It reveals the work UNIQUE to the God-man. (verse 17). It reveals TROG. The Gospel is the DECLARATION of Christ's (unique) work. It is the DECLARATION of His ACCOMPLISHED salvation.

The Gospel is not an offer from God for sinners to do something and be saved. The Gospel is a DECLARATION of what Christ has (already) done to save His people. Christ has (already) put away the sins of those He was given. He has (already) established the everlasting righteousness by which God declares His people righteous. He (alone) upheld God's STANDARD of judgment. He (alone) brought in the only righteousness that is communicated to sinners by IMPUTATION. He (alone) has produced the righteousness by which the Spirit imparts (spiritual/eternal) life to every sinner Christ was given (every sinner He has redeemed).

This is the Savior (and salvation) sinners need to hear about. And, this is the salvation the Gospel REVEALS. In revealing the Person and Work of Christ, the Gospel reveals the OBJECT of (true) faith. Sinners must HEAR of the God-man. We must hear of His finished work in order to worship Him. BEFORE this revelation, we are like the woman at the well. We worship we know not what.

**The Gospel is UNIQUE because of (who) it reveals, the God-man. It is UNIQUE because of (what) it reveals, the work which only the God-man has accomplished.**

**The Gospel is also UNIQUE because of what is accomplished under it ALONE. The Gospel (alone) is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth”.**

**Under the Gospel ALONE, sinners learn of a Just God and Savior. Under the Gospel ALONE, sinners learn of the OBJECT of God given faith. And, under the Gospel ALONE, sinners are saved.**

**Look back at Romans 1: 17 “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”**

**The Gospel is the “power of God unto salvation” because it REVEALS TROG. It reveals TROG “FROM (out of) faith; OUT OF (the) “faith (the Gospel).**

**Without this revelation, sinners don’t know God. Without this revelation, sinners are not worshipping God. And, they cannot know or worship God because they have never heard of the true and living God, a Just God and Savior. They have never heard how God can show mercy to a sinner who deserves nothing but His eternal wrath, and be JUST to do so. Sinners must hear THIS body of truth.**

**But, the Gospel also reveals TROG “TO (into) faith; INTO Holy Spirit wrought “faith. ONLY under the Gospel are those whom God has saved REVEALED. Those whom God, the Father has chosen and justified; those whom God, the Son has redeemed; those whom God, the Holy Spirit has imparted (spiritual) life to and called are made known, manifested, REVEALED under the preaching of TROG ALONE.**

**Look at Mark 16: 15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”**

**The Gospel is “the light. Light REVEALS what is already there. It does not create anything new or add something that was not already there. Flip on light. The light does not add anything to the room. It simply REVEALS what was already there.**

**That is what the light of the Gospel does in salvation. This is HOW the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation. It first REVEALS TROG. That is**

IMPERATIVE. **TROG** is the SOURCE of salvation. **It is** the basis/ground on which the Spirit gives life to a spiritually dead sinner. **It** (then) REVEALS those whom God has (already) saved on the basis of TROG.

**Under** the Gospel, sinners don't BECOME saved, as though believing is what CAUSES God to save them. **Under** the Gospel, they will BE saved. **I. e.** They will be REVEALED to have (already) been saved.

**The** preaching of TROG will REVEAL their justification. **It** will REVEAL their redemption. **It** will REVEAL their spiritual life. **And**, it will do all that by REVEALING their God-given ðfaithö. **Their** ðbelievingö (their faith) will only EVIDENCE the eternal life God, the Holy Spirit has ALREADY imparted to them. **They** will believe on the Son DECLARED in the Gospel.

**Look** at John 3: 36 “**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**”

**The** sinner believing on the Son (already) HAS eternal life. **That** is WHY he believes on the Son REVEALED in the Gospel. **His** believing is no part of the CAUSE of life. TROG is the CAUSE of life. **The** sinnersø believing on the Son ðrevealedö is the EVIDENCE of that life.

**Look** at I Corinthians 1: 18 “**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**”

**The** Gospel is the ðpowerö by which God saves us. **And**, the Gospel is the ðpowerö by which that salvation is EVIDENCED and REVEALED. **God's** Gospel is the MEANS of salvation in the Spiritual realm. (Three realms). **The** Gospel is the MEANS of salvation. **It is** the MEANS by which sinners learn of the OBJECT of (true) faith. **Also**, this MEANS is used by the Spirit to bring a sinner from death to life; **from** darkness to light; **from** ðgoing aboutö to resting in Christ ALONE.

**The** Gospel of Christ is UNIQUE because it reveals the God-man. **It is** UNIQUE because it reveals His ACCOMPLISHED salvation. **And**, it is UNIQUE because it is the ONLY message under which the Spirit gives life. **And**, it is the ONLY message under which those who have been given life will be REVEALED.

**The** Gospel is THE faith (body of truth) that brings sinners INTO FAITH (i.e. INTO God given faith). **Sinners** are NEVER brought to God given faith apart from the body of truth that reveals the righteousness of God. **No** righteousness of God, no Gospel. **No** Gospel, no revelation of the OBJECT of God given faith. **No** revelation

of the OBJECT of God given faith, no salvation in the (spiritual) realm, (i.e. no imparting or evidence of spiritual life).

**THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand: **It is** what makes the Gospel ðthe power of God unto salvationð.

**There** is another REASON why **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand because: **TROG** is the ONE thing Satan seeks to keep ðhiddenð from sinners. **He** will do everything he can to keep sinners from knowing how God is just to justify (I.e. from VALUING the Redemptive Glory of God).

Look at II Corinthians 4: 3-5 **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

**5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.”**

**Satan** blinds the minds of even the elect before God brings them to the Gospel and ðshines the light of His glory in the face of Jesus Christð. **Christ’s** purpose in coming was to break Satan’s hold on His sheep and deliver them.

Look at Hebrews 2: 14-15 **“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**

**15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”**

**Christ** ðdestroyedð Satan (i.e. rendered him powerless to condemn) by the Cross. **He** delivers His sheep in time in each generation when He brings us to the Gospel and persuades us what He ALONE has done to save us and keep us unto final glory.

**We** give glory to God in our salvation and enter in to that deliverance (initially) by resting in Christ (His righteousness imputed) for ALL of salvation. **We** enter in to that deliverance (continually) by ðLooking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.ð (Hebrews 12: 2)



We enter in to that deliverance by looking to Him who KEEPS us in this world.

**Look at John 16: 33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”**

Those resting in Christ know that whatever òtribulationö befalls us in this world, our FULL salvation is secure in Christ, Jesus, our Lord.

We enter in to that deliverance by looking to the ONE who will PRESERVE us unto final glory. Christ prayed for the PRESERVATION of His church in the world.

**Look at John 17: 14-17 “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

**15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.**

**16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

**17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”**

The church is made up of sinners who are òsanctifiedø (set apart) by òthe truthö (the Gospel) we believe. The church is made up of regenerate sinners gathered where the Gospel is preached; **where** Christ is lifted up as THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS; **where** God is glorified as a Just God and Savior.

**Our** PRESERVATION is Christ. We are DELIVERED (from) this world by Christ. We are DELIVERED (in) this world by Christ. We look to HIM. We look to His blood to CLEANSE us. We look to His righteousness to CLOTHE us. We look to His Word to PRESERVE us.

**Quick** review and ~~is~~ done. **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand because:

1. **TROG** is the ONLY way Godø Redemptive GLORY can be upheld in salvation.

2. **TROG** is what makes the Gospel òthe power of God unto salvationö.

3. **TROG** is the ONE thing Satan seeks to keep òhiddenö from sinners.

