

## Introduction

This week we want to look at Romans 14:17 in more detail so that we can become ministers ministering out of joy, instead of frustration, and minister out of a revelation of the light that God has shining in our hearts with a true understanding of righteousness.

## Scripture

- **Romans 14:17** (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

- **Romans 14:17-18** (Message)

<sup>17-18</sup> God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you

Many people in the body of Christ don't have a true revelation of righteousness. Righteousness begins in the heart. Gods' righteousness imparted into sinful man.

Everything we do as Christians comes from an acceptance of who we are. If we feel right and understand righteousness it is easier to minister righteousness.

I find it hard to understand how I can be right today and wrong tomorrow, because if this gift of righteousness, freely given by God then the only thing that makes me unrighteous is wrong teaching and the enemy condemning me.

So how can I possibly step in and out of sonship when God has imparted His righteousness into me.

He is at work inside of me setting my heart right, completing the work that He begun.

Righteousness is a gift of God which is freely given when we become born again.

## Scripture

- **Romans 5:17**

"if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."

The gift cannot be earned. It is a gift through His Son Jesus Christ. We are called to rule and reign in this present life and He gave us a gift to make it happen.

It's amazing how some songs we sing, and some messages we hear talk about the victory when we get to heaven, but we are not meant to suffer on the earth. We are meant to be victorious here and now. We are more than conquerors!

**Scripture**

- **Romans 8:37** (NIV)

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Why would anybody want to become a Christian if we portray suffering and defeat now and only victory in heaven.

The righteousness that we receive should be such a strong revelation in our heart that it comes out in our witnessing, in our lifestyle, and in the power of God.

This gift keeps us in right standing with God, which breaks down all fear and insecurity through my knowing He is for me and designed me to be victorious through His finished work on the cross.

I can't become any more righteous or any less righteous because God is the same yesterday today and forever, he doesn't change.

When God bestows a gift upon us, he doesn't all of a sudden turn around and say "I want it back again".

**Scripture**

- **Timothy 2:13** (AMP)

<sup>13</sup>If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself.

The very attributes of God don't change. He is faithful, even when we are not. So we can count on God. He cannot lie, so he cannot change.

One of the greatest statements in the bible was when the Father said of His Son Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

We need to understand that He is pleased with us because it is by grace you have been saved not by works. So when God speaks a word:

- His Word does not lie
- His Word will never fade away
- He backs up His Word
- He is faithful to His Word
- He watches over His Word
- His Word is alive and active

These are the things that bring us into revelation and understanding that the Kingdom of God is not part of a program but it is a work of progress in our hearts.

It is so sad that a lot of Christians, and I include ministers in this, do not understand their true place and are trying to work for Gods acceptance. But we are accepted through the blood of Jesus Christ.

***RIGHTEOUSNESS: A state of being perfect without sin***

Broadly the word suggests conformity to the revealed will of God.

God declares the believer righteous in the sense of acquitting him and imparts righteousness to us. Not holding our sin or previous life against us. He does not carry a shovel, digging up our past.

#### Scripture

- **Romans 1:17**

“that we receive righteousness by faith that it cannot be worked for”

Paul’s message centres around righteousness. God himself is righteous. He gives us His righteousness when we believe.

#### Question:

How can a righteous God freely give righteousness to an unrighteous people?

#### Answer:

The love and mercy revealed in the cross of Christ, a love so strong backed up from the throne of God that *nothing* can tear us away from it.

#### Scripture

- **Romans 8:38-39** (NIV)

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[a]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,<sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul is convinced here that *nothing* can separate us from the love of God because His love is in Christ Jesus, demonstrating it on the cross and the separation of the Father and the Son for mankind to be restored into righteousness and Sonship with the Father.

There had to be a separation for a restoration.

For us to minister out of the presence and from the throne of God, first of all we must go into the presence, we must have a confidence and assurance that we can enter into Gods presence without inferiority, prejudices, guilt or condemnation.

#### Scripture

- **Hebrews 4:16**

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need”

Your future has nothing to do with how you may feel, but it has everything to do with what God has said about you in His Word.

By placing your confidence in Him, and not your own abilities, you will begin to experience His blessings in your life.

He is our help, you don’t have to do it on your own. We can approach Him, like we can when we go to our earthly parents for help.