

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

ORGANIZED 1786

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

Vol. 12

Lexington, Kentucky

November, 1980 No. 2

Righteousness For The Unrighteous

By the Late C.D. Cole

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." (Romans 1:16-18).

If I had but one sermon to preach and the whole world for an audience, this is the message I would bring. I would not allow a false modesty keep me from saying that the truth in this sermon is most vital to every man.

Paul says that he is not ashamed of the gospel because it is what God uses in saving sinners. Then he tells how it saves, namely, by revealing "the righteousness of God," or how an unrighteous man may become righteous before God. Here is the touch stone of the true gospel: it reveals how a sinner can become right with a holy and just God.

1. Salvation is a dire necessity because men are unrighteous, both by inheritance and practice. God is a Lawgiver and the failure of moral beings to obey His law makes them unrighteous in His sight. This unrighteousness merits and must receive penal punishment from God. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men."

2. Unrighteousness is universal among men. "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). This means that no man

is righteous by his own record, on his own account, in his own right. In himself considered, every man is ruined by the fall and cursed by the law, "For it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Gal. 3:10b). "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God (Romans 3:19).

3. Every man out of Christ is under the moral law of God as the way of life. Many think that all were under the law before the coming of Christ, and that since His coming all are under grace. If this is true, all before Christ were lost and all since are saved. This would mean universal damnation in one period of time and universal salvation in another period. It is the function of law to punish the disobedient, it is the part of grace to save the disobedient. All men have been saved alike by grace through faith, whether in Old Testament times or since the coming of Christ. All sinners have the same Saviour regardless of the age in which they lived. The Old Testament believers looked forward to the coming Saviour; New Testament believers look back to the Saviour who has already come. The only way to be saved is to get out from under the moral law of God, and the only way to do this is to trust Jesus Christ, who is "the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4).

4. To be saved a man must have a righteousness that conforms to all that the law of God demands. Otherwise, the sinner would be saved at the expense of justice. No attribute of God suffers in the salvation of sinners. The principle of justice operates in salvation of sinners as truly as in damnation, the difference being that in salvation the Divine attributes of mercy, grace, and love come in, to satisfy justice by giving up Christ to be punished as the Surety of His people. Christ died for my sins in the sense that He was punished for them, and if He was punished for them, then a just God will not punish me for them. "Free from the law, O happy condition, Jesus has died, and there is remission." The righteousness of the believer is called "The righteousness of God." This phrase occurs frequently and is one of the most important expressions in all the Bible. To be saved the sinner must have the righteousness of God, and this is what is revealed in the Gospel of Christ.

The righteousness of God comes to the sinner through faith, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested... even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe" (Rom. 3:21, 22). "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom. 10:4). "Him whom knew no sin He made to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21, R.V.).

How long will the righteousness Christ provided last? It hardly needs to be argued that it will last forever. "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness" (Ps 119:142). "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

My dear reader, if you are lost, let me urge you to acknowledge before God and men that you have no righteousness of your own, and then trust Jesus Christ for the righteousness He provided in His obedience unto death -- even the death on the cross. Then you can say with Isaiah, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God: for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation: He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness" (Isa. 61:10).



I BELIEVE GOD

Acts 27:25

By the Late C.D. Cole

This is a commonplace saying. Most anybody will readily say, "I believe God." But this is a bigger confession than many imagine. You may be deceived and say you believe God when in reality you do not. It is one thing to believe in God, and another to believe God.

1. Implications of the declaration. In saying, "I believe God" there are certain things implied. It is implied,

(1) That God has spoken. Roman 10:17. How could one believe God unless God has said something? The heathen believe in idols, but they do not believe idols, for their idol gods never speak. But God has spoken. This bible is called the word of God because in it, God is speaking.

(2) That God has spoken truly. God's word is the truth without any mixture of error. "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Somebody has said that all men are liars. This may not be the best way to put it, but I am sure all men have lied. Christ said, "Thy word is truth."

(3) God has spoken blessedly. There is good news in God's word. Much of this Bible is solemn. It has some sad and sordid stories in it -- stories of sin and shame, but it also has some good news in it. That was good news to Paul when God said, "Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar; and God hath given thee all that sail with thee." It was good news to Abraham when God told him he was to have a son and a seed like unto the stars for multitude.

(4) God has spoken exclusively. By this I mean we have nothing else to go by but the Word of God. No substitute for what God says on any subject. What God says on any subject is all that can be known on that subject. Creation -- Hebrews 11:3; Our knowledge of creation is faith knowledge. Salvation. How can we know the truth about salvation? Only by believing what God says.

We never believe God as long as we try to ascertain whether what He says is reasonable and possible. We never believe God when we put what He says in the crucible of human judgment or human opinion. I have no concern about finding out whether there was ever a fish big enough to swallow Jonah. I believe God when He says He prepared a fish to swallow Jonah. Noah was not interested in scientific proof of the possibilities of a flood. Noah believed God -- all knowledge he had about the coming flood was what God said. All signs and circumstances were against any hope that Paul and his party would escape drowning. But, Paul believed God, and God said there will be no loss of life. Abraham had no hope of any

child -- all laws of nature said no hope, but God said, "Look at the stars-try to count them- so shall thy seed be. Paul said Abraham believed God.

A lot of people talk about believing God when it is not God at all they believe. They believe what seems reasonable to them or what is scientifically possible. The person who believes God has nothing else to believe.

2. Somethings God has said of a blessed nature.

(1) His word says there is forgiveness with God. How else could we know there is forgiveness except as He has spoken? Nothing about forgiveness in natural law. Put your finger in the fire and it will be burned -- no forgiveness for breaking that law. Drink poison and you will die -- no forgiveness for violating that law. I know there is forgiveness with God because He says there is.

(a) His word says this forgiveness is based upon redemption. Eph. 1:7. The sinner is forgiven because Christ satisfied justice. No forgiveness by setting aside law, but only because of satisfied law. God forgives us for Christ's sake.

(b) His word says forgiveness is according to grace. It is not according to our goodness but according to His grace.

(2) God has spoken about His Son. I John 5:9-12. How do I know there is eternal life in Jesus Christ? Only because God says so. I believe God.

(3) God has spoken about the life that is profitable. I Tim. 4:8, I Sam. 2:30.

The human race embarked upon its downward and sinful career by walking by sight. Adam and Eve believed their eyes rather than God's word. When Eve saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and gave also unto her husband, and he did eat (Gen. 3:6). A new race is being created in Christ Jesus to walk by faith, not by sight.

Let us examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. Most people walk by sight. The just shall live by faith. We are saved by faith and we must walk by faith.

***"Therefore If Any Man
Be In Christ, He Is A
New Creature" II Cor. 5:17***

CASSETTE TAPES

MESSAGES BY AL GORMLEY

All tapes (C -60) are \$1.75 each, postage paid.

Order from:

Bryan Station Baptist Church
Tape Ministry
3175 Briar Hill Pike
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY

- ___ 658 Hope
___ 660 Refusing and Choosing by Moses
___ 661 Hast Thou Entered Into The Treasures of the Snow?
___ 663 Forgiveness
___ 664 As The Father Sent Me, So Send I You
___ 666 God's Jewels
___ 667 Hope of Another Life
___ 669 Ye Must Be Born Again

Send to _____

Street _____

City & State _____

Return defective tapes with a note of explanation, and we will replace tape.

