

# RECKONED RIGHTEOUS

## INTRODUCTION

### "Romans" so far:

- All the world is guilty, including the privileged Jew.
- Man cannot save himself by obedience to God's law.



### Topic: "Reckoned <sup>1</sup> Righteousness" (3:21- 5:21)

- A man is considered righteous by faith – though in himself he is not.
- Believers are given Christ's righteousness as a gift.

## GOD'S PROVISION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – 3:21-31

### 1] God's gift of righteousness is received by faith in Christ (3:21-22)

- Righteousness is "to all & upon all", like a coat or covering.



**Why doesn't God's gift of righteousness make us better people inside?**

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### 2] This righteousness is made possible by the cross (3:24-26).

- Christ bore the believer's sin and appeased God's anger.
- Now that sin is justly dealt with, God can justly justify (declare us righteous). <sup>2</sup>



**Salvation has two sides like a coin**

**It cancels ..... and gives .....**  
( please complete)

### 3] This righteousness is given without works (3:27-31)

- God's righteousness is not *achieved* but *received* – by faith.
- Gentiles may also receive this righteousness as it is not by the Jewish law.

<sup>1</sup> Imputed, credited, counted.

<sup>2</sup> The word justify means to declare a person just (i.e. righteous). It is not the cancellation of sin alone.



**Why is it impossible for Christians to boast about their salvation?**

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**ABRAHAM WAS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS – 4:1-25**

**1] Abraham was declared righteous by faith (4:1-4) <sup>3</sup>**

- If by works, Abraham could have claimed salvation as a wage that was earned. (v.4)
- But forgiveness is by faith and therefore *free*, as David also taught. (vv.5-8)



**The only wage a sinner deserves is death. <sup>4</sup> Why?**

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**2] Abraham is proof that righteousness is given to Gentiles (4:9-12)**

- He was declared righteous when uncircumcised, i.e., like a Gentile. (v.10)
- Circumcision was simply a sign, or symbol, of his faith. (v.11)



**Why is baptism (or any other ceremony) no more essential for salvation than circumcision is?**

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**3] Abraham is the father of all those who have a similar faith (4:13-25)**

- Believers of every nation are Abraham's children. (vv.13-17)
- ALL who share his faith have the same gift of righteousness. (vv.18-22)

<sup>3</sup> Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 in proof – “Abraham believed God & it was accounted to him for righteousness”

<sup>4</sup> Romans 6:23



**Why are believers of every race, tribe and caste EQUALLY acceptable to God? <sup>5</sup>**

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## **BENEFITS OF RECKONED RIGHTEOUSNESS – 5:1-21**

### **1] Peace and privilege come to those who are declared righteous (5:15)**

- Peace with God, and a new relationship with Him.
- Trials, too, are blessed to produce a Christ-like character.



**Why might a Christian’s privileges be compared to an unclaimed inheritance?**

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### **2] Salvation is assured from what we learn of God’s love (5:6-11)**

- Christ loved us when “enemies”, how “much more” now we are friends!
- Especially as Christ’s “life” is now interceding for us.



**In the light of such love, explain why no true Christian can finally be lost.**

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### **3] Reversal of the misery caused by Adam’s fall (5:12-21)**

- Adam’s sin for, or on behalf of, mankind resulted in death for all. (vv.12-14)
- Christ’s obedience, for believers, brought the gift of His righteousness. (vv.15 -19)

<sup>5</sup> Galatians 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Greek ... slave nor free ... male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”



**Say why it was hard for Christ to regain what Adam had so easily lost.**

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## TO CONCLUDE

**We are as pleasing to God as Jesus – with His righteousness.  
God now wants us to be righteous in character too.**

*(This will be the next topic)*