

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 91

*The Righteousness of God is Revealed at the Cross
of Christ & His Resurrection*



2016

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON

Is it ever right to lie? Is it sometimes wrong to tell the truth?

What if a friend of yours was hiding inside your home because a man wanted to kill him and that man came to your door and asked you where your friend was...would you tell the truth?

Sometimes in life it's hard to know the right thing to do and often it's even harder to do the right thing once you know what it is.

Doing the right thing sometimes is easier said than done.

For instance...another example: is it wrong to steal a drug if someone you love needs it to survive and stealing it is the only way to get it for them?



How do YOU figure out the right thing to do? What is the right thing and how do you know if it's the right thing to do?

Often the first thing we do is figure out what the WRONG thing would be, and then do the opposite. Or do nothing at all.

Again...another example: if you had to choose between killing one person to save the lives of five other people and doing nothing, what would you do?

As difficult as these choices are for us, the choices God made concerning us were MUCH MORE difficult.



So that gets us to our subject, which is the righteousness of God revealed in book of Romans.

Did God do the right thing in forgiving us? Our salvation...was it the RIGHT thing to do?

That may seem like a really HUGE question and an odd question but it gets out what it means to talk about the righteousness of God.

Our salvation...it definitely was the merciful thing to do...

It was clearly the loving thing to do...

It was a very gracious thing to do...

But what is RIGHT?

In 500 BC the Greek philosopher Socrates said to another Greek philosopher, Plato, "It may be that the Deity can forgive sins, but I do not see how."

Was it right for God to forgive us and accept us when we were so very wrong and when we were rebels against Him and against all that is right and holy? Is it RIGHT for God to treat us now as righteous? How do we even go about trying to make sense of that question? *Job 9:1-3 "Then Job answered, (2) In truth I know that this is so; but how can a man be in the right before God? (3) If one wished to argue with Him, he could not answer Him once in a thousand times." Job 9:12 "Were He to snatch away, who could restrain Him? Who could say to Him, 'What are You doing?'"*

What is the right thing to do? Most people rely on their conscience to decide. Some people just rely on what others think. Then again, a lot of people figure if it's legal it's right.

As Christians, knowing the right thing to do in the end, comes down to what God says is the right thing to do. God is truth. He has all the RIGHT answers and we should ask God as the Center of Truth for the answer to what is right and what is wrong.

But how does God decide? He cannot appeal to anyone because He is the Highest...the Sovereign! What does God use to determine the right thing to do? Should we even be asking that question?

The answer is: He uses Himself because God is perfect and He is TRUTH...ABSOLUTE TRUTH! And He reveals His Truth in the Bible.

When it comes to what is right and what is wrong, it starts and stops with God and His WORD!



You know that we can say we stand for one thing and then go out and do the exact opposite and think nothing of it. God does not have that luxury. God can NEVER do that.



Do you realize that if God did that just once, the whole universe would fall apart?

There is an anchor holding up this entire universe and that anchor is the righteousness of God because if God ever made a mistake, why there would be nobody else that could come in and make things right. He is the GUARDIAN of all that is right and holy. There is no one like the Lord!

What is the right thing for God to do about a sinner? A sinner who is in open rebellion against Him? What is the right thing for God to do with an enemy of all that is right and holy?

You know, for us, isn't it true that sometimes, doing the right thing hurts?

It can cost us.

We don't always do the right thing though...do we? We don't want to pay the cost of doing the right thing. Even if deep down inside we just know that if we do something...and we even do it sincerely, we do it with passion, lovingly even...but it was NOT really the RIGHT THING to do...NO...it was the WRONG thing to do and...it will eventually be exposed for the wrong thing that it is, and then it will be undone...and we just know this.



So if we happen to be acting sanely at the moment, we end up doing the right thing, even though it is going to hurt us...cost us something...it's the only way to go.

And it turns out that when it came to sinful mankind, doing the right thing would turn out to be a very costly thing for God to do. Yet God did it anyway at a HUGE COST!

You see righteousness when it comes to God means this: the righteousness of God is God's perfect consistency with His own perfect and blessed nature.

We act against our better judgment all the time and figure it's no big deal. God will never do that. God looks at the perfect person He is and realizes He will always act consistently and do the right thing...EVERY TIME! Some of the most marvelous things about God being God are that He is love, He is holy, He is truth, and He is just and He will ALWAYS do the right thing!

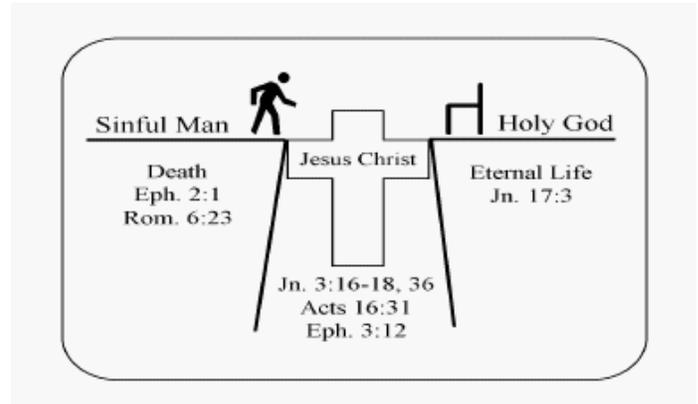
God can have nothing to do with sin! He had to come up with a very genius plan and being the righteous genius He is...He did!

So God considered who He is, and realized some things about His plan of action concerning the sinful human race...

If I wipe them out without first trying to rescue them, where's the love in that?

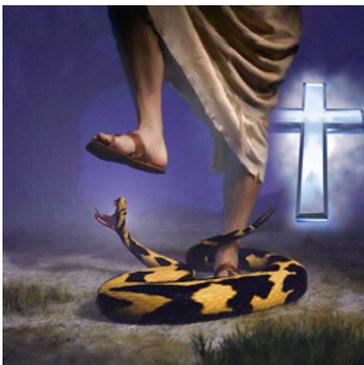
But if I excuse them, that's just not holy. Besides, I already declared the truth that the wages of sin is death. I will not go back on that.

So our rebelling against God brought things to a head and made it a guarantee that it would cost God dearly to now act consistently with His entire perfect nature in His dealings with us. He did it anyway. He paid a mind-blowing price. He paid with the blood of His precious Son. He paid our debt by the death of His Son.



Was our salvation the right thing to do? YES!
The cross magnifies the majesty of God like nothing else ever could.

Our salvation, through the death, resurrection and session of our Lord Jesus Christ, leading to the justification (which is that at our personal salvation we are declared perfect in Christ) of all who believe, is not only the right thing, it is actually in our salvation that the righteousness of God was most wonderfully and fully revealed. He did it because it was the most right thing ever to do...MOST right because it took ALL that God is to do this for mankind. And because it was the right thing to do, it will survive inspection. It will not be undone. It will hold up forever. God takes being God seriously. THAT'S what the righteousness of God is all about. *Rom 5:20-21 "The Law came in so that the sin would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,(21) so that, as sin ruled in death, even so grace would rule **through righteousness** to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*



And because God has dealt with us righteously at the cross, in His Son, meaning He acted in accordance with His love AND His holiness AND His truth AND His justice, Satan has no ground whatsoever for questioning the verdict, ever. And he has no grounds whatsoever for ever objecting to the greatest of blessings that God gives us, when everyone knows full well we don't deserve them at all.

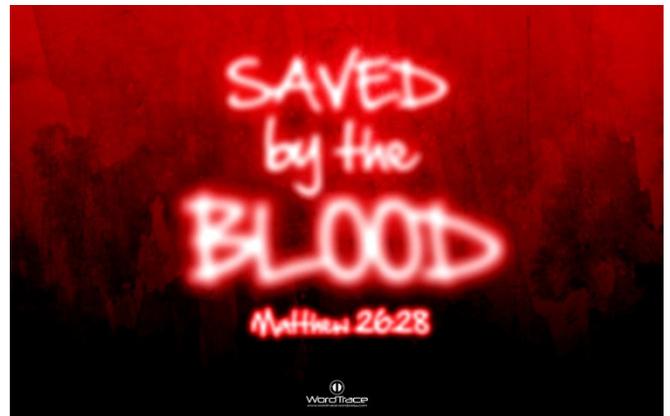
Satan will never again have a legitimate claim for accusing us of anything. The cross of Christ is where all of Satan's arguments go to die. *Col 2:13-15 "When you were dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our sins, (14) having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities (Satan and his kingdom of darkness), He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Jesus)."*

Perfect Christ died for the cause of the righteousness of God. God did the righteous thing in raising Jesus from the dead and seating Our Lord at His Right Hand.

Believing in Jesus Christ is essentially surrendering to the righteousness of God. "You are SO right!" "You are ALL right!" SO... God is acting righteously when He accepts us and declares us to be righteous or perfect in His sight. *Rom 3:21-26 "But now the righteousness of God without the law is shown, being witnessed by the law and the prophets (O.T. prophecies about Jesus); (22) Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;(24) Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (satisfaction) through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the doing away of sins that are past, through the mercy of God;(26) To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of whoever believes in Jesus."*

The whole thing is covered in the blood of Jesus. The whole thing is covered in the righteousness of God. God's holiness was glorified in the full judgment of sin. God's love to the sinner is brought forth like nothing else could have shown it.

What a spectacle for the whole universe!!!
And this display will hold good for all of eternity.



God counts righteous the ungodly man or woman who believes in Christ, because He places that man or woman in the full value of the infinite work of Christ on the cross. God acts in righteousness toward Himself. God acts in righteousness toward Christ. God acts in righteousness toward us.

Just as it would have been unrighteous for God not to raise His Son back to life after His Son had completely glorified Him in His death; so it would also be unrighteous for God not to declare righteous in Christ all those who, not counting on themselves, have transferred their faith and hope to Christ alone for salvation.

All of it was the right thing to do. It was definitely the right thing to do. God was right to save us. God was right to forgive us. God was right to grace us out.

What do we say to these things? Glorify our righteous God by drinking in all the righteous grace blessings He has for us!

So all that reminds me of a hit song from the early '70s by Carly Simon.

Now I want you to read the lyrics of this song like it is God singing to you and then you go sing it right back to Him...

There's nothin' you can do to turn me away
 Nothin' anyone can say
 You're with me now and as long as you stay
 Lovin' you's the right thing to do
 Lovin' you's the right thing



I know you've had some bad luck with ladies before
 They drove you or you drove them crazy
 But more important is I know you're the one and I'm
 sure
 Lovin' you's the right thing to do
 Lovin' you's the right thing

And it used to be for a while
 That the river flowed right to my door
 Making me just a little too free
 But now the river doesn't seem to stop here anymore

Hold me in your hands like a bunch of flowers
 Set me movin' to your sweetest song
 And I know what I think I've known all along
 Lovin' you's the right thing to do
 Lovin' you's the right thing
 Lovin' you's the right thing to do
 Is the right thing

Nothing you could ever do would turn me away from you
 I love you now and I love you now
 Even though you're ten thousand miles away
 I'll love you tomorrow as I love you today
 I'm in love babe
 I'm in love with you babe.

Close in prayer.

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