

# GOT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Romans 1-5

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**THE BIG IDEA IS THIS:** understanding God's righteousness will change your life

- Most, if not all, of the great revivals and reformations in the history of the church have been directly related to the book of Romans
- The words of this poem capture all that Pastor Rick has been sharing with us in recent weeks:

O long and dark the stairs I trod    With trembling feet to find my God  
Gaining a foothold bit by bit,    Then slipping back and losing it.  
Never progressing; striving still    With weakening grasp and faltering will,  
Bleeding to climb to God, while he    Serenely smiled, not noting me.  
Then came a certain time when I    Loosened my hold and fell thereby;  
Down to the lowest step my fall,    As if I had not climbed at all.  
Now when I lay despairing there,    Listen...a footfall on the stair,  
On that same stair where I afraid,    Flattered and fell and lay dismayed.  
And lo, when hope had ceased to be,    My God came down the stairs to me.

1. Let's remember where we've been . . . and where Paul is headed:

1:18-3:20 CONDEMNATION	3:21-5:21 JUSTIFICATION	6:1-7:25 SANCTIFICATION
NEED OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	WAY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS	LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
DEADLINESS OF SIN	DESIGN OF GRACE	DEMONSTRATION OF SALVATION

2. Your life will be forever changed when/if you grab ahold of some important truths:

A. God's **R**\_\_\_\_\_ is needed by each one of us

- this is **THE** key word in Romans (35xs)—we have seen it seventeen times—
- the first 3 chapters of Romans are largely the contrast between a holy, righteous God and unrighteous mankind (1:17-18; 3:5)
- The message of Romans is simple: God is righteous, we are **N**\_\_\_\_. God is holy & perfect; we are **N**\_\_\_\_—**WE NEED HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!!**

B. The **G**\_\_\_\_\_ is the power of God that leads to salvation, to having God's righteousness

- also a key word in Romans (13xs)—we have seen it five times-- 1:1, 9, 15-16, 2:16
- GOSPEL= good news ... it is God's **DYNAMITE!!**
- It is **IMPERATIVE** that you and I understand the gospel... hear it and respond to it

C. To fully understand the GOSPEL, God's good news, we must first understand the

**B**\_\_\_\_\_ NEWS

- there is another key word that we have seen several times in the first five chapters of Romans ... the word **WRATH** (1:18-19; 2: 4-8, 4:15; 5:8-11)
- God's wrath is **R**\_\_\_\_\_ and it is **J**\_\_\_\_\_

D. JUSTIFICATION is the only solution to this bad news of God's wrath (we have seen this word 13xs- justify, justifies, justification)

-to be JUSTIFIED is to be D\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_

-Note what Paul has to say about our need to be justified and our acquiring of it  
2:13; 3:20, 23-24, 28-30 28; 4:1-8, 4:25- 5:1; 5:8-11

-We guilty, sinful people desperately need God's righteousness, we need to be JUSTIFIED. Without it we are doomed to face God's righteous wrath

-That's why Paul rejoices in R\_\_\_\_\_ . . . being brought into harmony/fellowship with a holy, just, righteous God ("Peace with God" 5:1) Rom 5:10-11.

### O WHAT? TAKING IT HOME

. Has your life been forever changed by these truths?

. Got righteousness?

Have you been declared righteous in God's courtroom because of the sacrifice of Jesus in your place? 1Jn 5:11-13

If you are sure . . . if you are saved and you know it . . .

If you have been delivered from God's wrath and have become a child of God

-Let your face K\_\_\_\_\_ it!!

-Let your life S\_\_\_\_\_ it!!

-Let your voice B\_\_\_\_\_ it!!