



THE CHALLENGER

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

November 2008

The Doctrine of Righteousness

BY THE EDITOR

“That as sin has reigned to death, even so might grace reign through RIGHTEOUSNESS to eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:21)

A N URGENT NEED IN OUR DAY is a right understanding of righteousness because of our soul’s association with God and our responsibility to Him and those around us. The most simple definition is doing that which is right. Actually, righteousness is consistency in every position in regard to others. Some solid things to consider are:

1. God is righteous and demands the same, for without it there can be no possible fellowship between the Creator and His creatures. We cannot walk together except we be agreed. There is no fellowship with unrighteousness. (Deuteronomy 25:16; Psalm 1:5,6; II Corinthians 6:14; Romans 1:18, 2:8,9) God always acts right, in perfect harmony with His nature. (Romans 1:17)
2. Man has no righteousness of his own with which he may meet the righteous demands of a holy God. Being ignorant of God’s righteousness, we endeavor to promote our own. (Romans 10:3, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Isaiah 64:6) The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 17:9 that the human heart is corrupt, deceitful, and desperately wicked. How can we produce righteousness acceptable to God? It is futile effort. The Pharisees prided themselves in such self-righteousness. (Isaiah 64:9, Luke 18:9, Philippians 3:6-9) If the unrighteous are to ever have righteousness acceptable to God, it must be divinely provided. (I Corinthians 1:30; Romans 8:7; Isaiah 45:8,24; 46:12,13; 54:17)
3. The sinner is declared righteous by God through Christ, the righteous One. On the cross Christ was made sin for us. He is now the righteousness of God, the acceptable substitute for we who are unrighteous. The heart of the gospel is that Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead. (Romans 15:1-5) In union with Christ by faith, we are righteous in the sight of God in His Son. What a privileged possession provided for us in justification. Christ is the embodiment of righteousness imparted to us. Our righteousness is *Someone*, not some thing. (Mark 12:36,37; John 13:13; James 2:23) Christ is made unto us righteousness. (II Peter 1:1; I Corinthians 1:30)
4. Divine righteousness can be ours only as it is appropriated by faith. (Romans 3:26, 4:6, 5:26; II Corinthians 5:21) Such possession will be evident to all. (James 2:14-

26) It is a divine gift. (Romans 6:5; 9:30,32; 10:4) The true believer — there is no other kind — is clothed in the Lord’s righteousness. (Romans 1:16, 17; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:6-9)

5. Righteousness is to be displayed in our everyday life. It is not doing righteousness that makes us righteous. Our standing before God is revealed in our state among men. Positional righteousness reflects in practical righteousness. (Romans 10:3-10) A righteous life is the result of salvation. (I John 3:7) The word “RIGHTEOUS” means upright, equitable, free from wrong. How can God supply us with power to act rightly in all things, at all times, in all relationships? The Holy Spirit can transform our conduct. We must be determined to follow righteousness in all things, in all places, and at all times. (II Timothy 2:22)
6. God helps us to realize the manifold blessings are the result of the acceptance of a divinely provided righteousness. “Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him; for they shall eat of the fruit of their doings” (Isaiah 3:10). “For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt Thou compass him with a shield” (Psalm 5:12). “And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever” (Isaiah 32:17). Many are the afflictions of the righ-

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The Doctrine of Righteousness (continued from page 1)

teous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. Psalm 34:19) "Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart" (Psalm 97:11). "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers" (I Peter 3:12).

It is the grace of God that motivates His sharing His will, plan and purpose with us. It is revealed in a book, the Bible. His directions are plain and in understandable language. Sin motives self-control and wants no one telling us what to do. When God created man in His image and gave him a companion, Adam was informed of his control over His creation. (Genesis 2:26) Both the man and woman knew they were under God's absolute directions. The first assignment for work was given by God to Adam. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15) God told man what not to do and also the consequences should He disobey. (Genesis 2:16, 17) Why the consequences? God knew of Adam's reaction to His commandments. From that day to this, men and women possess a passion to please themselves instead of the God Who created them. He calls such action SIN.

The Return to Obedience

He has provided a way for us to return to obedience and into a position

whereby we possess His blessings instead of judgment. As we acknowledge our sin and repent of it, we are made new creatures in Christ. (II Corinthians 5:17) This work is called *regeneration*. We are *born again*, born from above. The Holy Spirit gives us a new mind and heart that is directed to the fulfillment of God's purpose for our being on this earth. In I John, one of the greatest evidences of the Spirit's miracle in us is that we OBEY. (I John 2:3-5) Nothing demanded of us is beyond our reach. With His divine assistance we live righteous and holy lives. Thus the reason for being classified by God as saints. If in such a position, we will do right and please him in all that we do. (Philippians 4:13)

Friend, do you tolerate a problem with disobedience? Are you doing that to which you know that God has said NO? Are you failing to do according to the instruction of His Word? You need to get *saved*. We do not obey in order to get saved, we obey because of having been saved. (Be sure to read in I John for the other actions of the redeemed, which communicates evidence that we have been acted upon by the Holy Spirit.) Most people conclude they are in God's family by what they have done. Regeneration is the work of the Spirit and the change will be evident in what we do.

When God places us in His family (adoption), on the basis of the work of His Son on the cross and in an empty tomb, we realize the grace of God in such an undeserved provision. We believe in God's glorious work, not that which we have done. We will behave according to the Bible, for it reveals our reaction. Wonderful to be saved! Wonderful to serve God, the One Who provided such a glorious eternal salvation. Do I have to obey? You will have a passion to do so. Have you been saved? Both of us know by our actions. So does everyone else.



The day is coming when the Son of Righteousness will appear, accompanied with His saints, with healing in His wings (Malachi 4;2), accompanied by all of the heavenly saints. Will you be with me in this number? The ultimate blessing of righteousness by faith is an eternity with Him Who is our Righteousness. What hope we now possess (confident expectation)! (Proverbs 10;29,30; Malachi 3:17,18; Galatians 5:5) Friend, if you are a Christian, you are righteous in God's and man's sight. Our joy and delight is to be a manifestation of what God has done within us.



From Box 400

Into my hand came a little booklet, "Fear, Frustration, and Worry." I have read it several times, and it has really strengthened my growth of faith in Jesus Christ.

In the back of the booklet, you say you will send free copies. I pray that you can send me as many as you can. We have 200 offenders, but what you send we can share. I think everyone should read it! It is very understandable, well put together, and explains in a very simple, but direct, explanation. In my opinion, if someone knew nothing about our Lord and Savior, this booklet could easily win souls for Christ. It's a great booklet designed by God. Please send also your publication and a literature sheet of over 70 printed messages. *— Indiana*

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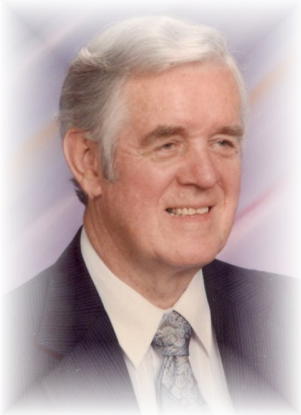
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RETURN TO: DWIGHT PORTER, BOX 400, ROSELAND, FL 32957
 (no cost or obligation)

Personal Word



At the end of my messages and all offers of CDs and cassettes, I place the following: no cost or obligation. This is not altogether true, though, because everything we mail costs us money, whether it be for printing, production, or postage. It is free to all who request the materials. To you who have real appreciation for that which you receive from us, be sure to thank the Lord for those who mail us their financial investments, that we may share with you the glorious message of God's grace. There are people who are praying regularly for you. Finances are received from people who desire you to be set free from the bondage of sin. They want to meet

you in heaven. We make no personal financial solicitation to anyone. Even to those who stop their support, no request for continuation comes from us.

Now you know a bit better how we operate financially. We have eleven people who volunteer many hours to care for filling requests, operating the equipment for CDs and cassettes, mailing and other aspects of our ministry. This explains why your dollars go so far in getting the redeeming hope to people lost in sin. Mark it down! We are overjoyed to have your prayers and purse involved in our ministry. By your response, you also join our team. We are reaching untold thousands in our prison system across America. They are no less important than you or me in God's sight. Our outreach goes far beyond prisons.

We are hoping for many more willing to join us to reach precious souls with biblical Truth. Ours is not a watered-down, easygoing message that is palpable to today's religious thinking. There is a hell to shun and a heaven to gain. None of us will reach heaven through any personal effort. It is Christ's work alone that God is satisfied with. Our trust and dependence must be upon Him. He is more than a Jesus; He is the LORD JESUS CHRIST. "That if you shall confess with your mouth the LORD JESUS, and shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD, shall be saved" (Romans 10:9,13).

Recently, I decided to add some printed messages to our free literature list. I was inclined to think that I could remove some that were out of date or duplications. To my complete surprise I found no duplications within these I was planning to remove. Upon reading them, I was surprised at their content and their direct communication of biblical Truth; so I decided to keep them on the list. Very few Christians in our day and age desire to know what the Bible says on any subject. For you who desire such, we are prepared to assist you. Our Bible Study Course is of great value in this regard. I have read every Bible study course I can get my hands on, and ours is one of the best to be found anywhere. I can freely evaluate it since it is not written by me.

Do you know the difference between grace and faith? Do you know the source of both? You will understand the difference after reading our two printed messages, hearing them on CD, cassette, or on our web-site. Definitions are vital in comprehending scriptural Truth.

Improvement in Efficiency

We believe the Lord's work calls for the best equipment and methods available. We should use every means of communication possible. Why? God's message is to be proclaimed everywhere. It is a message of life for those dying in sin and headed for hell. In our day, over 150,000 are perishing daily, facing eternity without knowledge

of the Savior. We must rush to them the provision of a holy God for lost sinners.

The Heritage Baptist Church in Titusville, Florida, has graciously allowed the use of their facilities. Their pastor is our assistant director. His wife, Linda, is our treasurer. Since we are using a multipurpose room, our storage of literature is on racks that can easily be moved. We now maintain an up-to-date inventory of all printed literature for future mailing. We lease a modern postage meter. Church members assist in the mailing. Our goal is to have all requested items, including our audio, shipped within one week at the most. Word just arrived that a number of prison inmates facing death row have taken the first lesson of our Bible course. Pray for their salvation. Thanks to you who assist us financially, this grants us the privilege of sending forth God's Word without solicitation to the receivers.

Our Volunteer Staff

- *Dr. Michael and Linda Eccleston*
(Titusville)
- *Dr. George and May Mitchell*
(Melbourne)
- *Robert and Marge Williams*
(Titusville)
- *Eugene and Joyce Schledorn*
(Indian Harbor Beach)
- *Wayne and Sandy Page*
(Sebastian)
- *John Porter*
(Sebastian)

Please pray for these dear people. We pay no salaries. Their many hours of donated service is unto the Lord for the souls of men and women.

Our Audio Outreach

I am constantly amazed at the clarity of our audio outreach on our web-site. The audio "MARIAN PORTER'S SONGS OF PRAISE" comes through loud and clear. (See order form on page 2.) Anyone, anywhere can hear her praise the Lord in song, despite now being in the presence of the Lord. At the present time

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Personal Word (continued from page 3)

thirty-one messages can be heard on our web-site. Have you heard recently an uncompromising, sound doctrinal message direct from the Bible?

Our National Economy

I believe it to be far graver than any suspects. It simply reveals the continuing moral deterioration in the USA. The only explanation is the greed of people handling other people's money. Of course, no such situation could exist independent of theft. How could this be happening over the years without an alarm being sounded? Some leaders did warn us. Did not our President and his Cabinet know? Of course they did. Too many were involved in the benefit of such manipulations. How is it that our nation faced this economic crises one month before a national election? Our national leaders already are pushing their agenda. They want the taxpayers to pay our way out. They propose the socialistic concept of taking money away from its citizens to give it to others, with the same crowd handling the money. That was part of the problem, involving trillions of dollars. Is our nation this far gone in integrity? We are!

Inmates

The prison system will not allow us to send CDs or cassettes to individual prisoners. However, they are available, if requested by a chaplain, for their audio library. We have not heard from one inmate listening via this opportunity.

Going to Heaven?

Remember the old Negro spiritual, "Everybody talkin about heaven ain't goen there"? All my life I have heard the mainstream Christian leaders saying that all we need to do is just believe in Jesus. God is obligated to respond to our faith. Therefore, if we believe, God will keep His promise. However, only one thing is wrong with that false premise. We have no faith and cannot exercise that which we do not possess. Faith, grace, and salvation are the gifts of God. (Ephesians 2:8,9) We are dead in trespasses and sin. (Ephesians 2:1) We have nothing within that responds to God's requirements. There's no satisfactory action that we can perform.

God uses a number of terms in His great doctrine of salvation. One of the main ones is "saved." Some churches today never mention this term because it indicates the total depravity of man. No man will ever be acceptable to a holy God until the Holy Spirit reveals our sin and brings us to repentance, without which we perish in a devil's hell. (Luke 13:3) If we are to possess salvation, it will be the work of the Holy Spirit. (John 6:40,14) He is the One Who reveals our condition before a holy God. (John 16:8) Remember the terms "born again" and "regeneration"? Again, this work is accomplished by the Spirit of God within us. (John 3:3,5; Titus 3:5) This subject is one of the nine lessons in our free Bible Study Course. Here is one of the definitions you should know if you are to understand God's provision for you in Christ.

No one will ever be in heaven until in possession of a changed life, which is God's work in regeneration. You are not heaven bound because you have done something. All you can do is be open to Truth. When believing, you simply rest upon that which God has made available, announcing such in His Word. No revelation of such provision will be yours until God reveals it to you personally through His Word. Friend, get your Bible open! We, as a helpless, hopeless sinner, must be worked upon by God. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them." If we are the product of His work, we will! (Ephesians 2:10)

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OUR OPERATION

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

~ WEB SITE ~
thehourofgraceandpower.org

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*"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord . . .
You know your labor is not in vain
in the Lord" I Corinthians 15:58*

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