

Introduction:

- A group of scientists decided it was time for someone to go to God and tell Him He wasn't needed anymore. One of the scientists volunteered and so he went to God and said, "God, you know, a bunch of us have been thinking and I've come to tell you that we really don't need you anymore. I mean, we've been coming up with great theories and ideas, we've cloned sheep, and we're on the verge of cloning a human. So as you can see, we really don't need you." //God nods understandingly and says, "I see. Well, no hard feelings. But before you go, let's have a contest. What do you think?" //The scientist says, "Sure. What kind of contest?" // God says, "A man-making contest." // "Sure!" said the scientist. "No problem." He bends down and picks up a handful of dirt and says, "Okay, I'm ready!" // God replies, "No, no no...You go get your *own* dirt!" **APPLICATION:** We can't replicate the creative power of God, we can't even produce our own dirt. Neither can we replicate the righteousness of God described in His holy law and demanded of us by His holy nature. Here, once again, we must rely on God to do for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves. And that's exactly what God does in Christ.
- *"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."" (Romans 1:16-17, NLT)*
- The Gospel is the power of God to bring those who keep on believing to a place of everlasting life, everlasting safety, everlasting joy in the presence of an everlasting good God. This is why it is called Good News! The question then becomes...
- How does the gospel save believers? How is the gospel God's power for salvation?
- *"God demands righteousness and we don't have it, so the only hope for us is that God himself would give the righteousness that he demands. That would be good news! That would be Gospel! And that is what he does!"* John Piper So, how does God save the believer?

I. God Demands Righteousness

- A. God, by who He is, demands righteousness. He demands we be like Him that we have His righteousness.
 1. It is not because He is mean or He is a 'control freak." People want to say that God is mean. That is not true, He is good! Because of who He is, sin/unrighteousness can't be tolerated or even come into his presence. Ie. Look at the relationship of light and darkness. It is the nature of light to always overcome or drive away darkness. He demands it, because of the urgency His righteousness requires. This is life or death. Listen closely! This is a matter of life and death.
 2. So the Word says, *"For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy"* (Leviticus 11:44, NKJV) it is not because He is mean. Their lives depend on it! It is because he wants a relationship with us! We think He is mean. He just wants relationship.
 3. *"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."* (Matthew 5:48, NKJV) It is not because He is mean. Our lives depend on it. And He wants relationship.
 4. *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*" (1 Peter 1:15-16, NKJV) Its urgent, He demands it.

- B. First we have to know what we are being saved from. So let's ask ourselves: "What are we being saved from?"
1. We are being saved from the wrath of God. "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*" (Romans 1:18, NKJV)
 - a) Paul in Romans 1:18 gives this (God's wrath) as the reason we need to be saved.
 - b) God is very angry at our unrighteousness and the way we suppress the truth.
 - c) "*But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.*" (Romans 2:8, NLT)
 - d) This is a big problem! God is indignant towards our unrighteousness! Ro 2:5 says because of our unrighteousness God's wrath is being stored up for us. We can't play with this! The Good News is the power of God to salvation from God's wrath!
 2. We are being saved from what we have worked for. "*For the wages of sin is death,...*" (Romans 6:23, NLT) IE. A wage is something we get in exchange something we have done for another. A wage is something we deserve...something we have earned. This death is an eternal punishment separated from God forever in darkness totally absent from any light, any goodness, any pleasure!
 3. God, by who He is, demands righteousness therefore He provides for us what He demands of us. That is a good God!

II. God Provides Righteousness

- A. This is the Gospel. Good news. Remember: *Euangelion*, Gr. for Good News. Someone who returns from battle with good news/message of victory! What is the Good News?
 1. The good news is that God has provided for us the very thing He demands of us..righteousness!
 2. The saving activity of God in Jesus Christ IS THE GOSPEL/Good News!
- B. He provides a way for us to be saved. He provides a way to be saved from His wrath. What is that way? It is the good news. What is the good news?
 1. "*I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.*" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NLT) These are the essentials of the Gospel! The Good News about Jesus!
 - a) Christ died for our sins.
 - b) He was buried.
 - c) He was raised from the dead on the third day.
 - d) Anyone who denies these truths, preacher or 'christian' are not Christian! Their message is no longer the Gospel. These truths are the Gospel!
 2. That is the Good News, one of us, a man, made it beyond the grave! Jesus! The saving activity of God in Jesus Christ IS THE GOSPEL!
 - a) He conquered sin.
 - b) He conquered hell.
 - c) He conquered death.
 3. It was the message of the Apostles in Acts 4:1-2; 10-12 "*The one you crucified, God raised from the dead!*" This was the good news!

- C. Why I can say that God is good, is because He himself has provided what He demands. He demands righteousness and He provides it! I'd say that is a very good God!
1. God supplies us with a righteousness that is not our own!

III. God Declares Us Righteous

- A. God declares us righteous or He makes us right in His sight. How? When we believe.
1. *"Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved..."* (John 10:9, NLT)
 2. *"But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved..."* (Acts 2:21, NLT)
 3. *"There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved..."* (Acts 4:12, NLT)
 4. *"Then he brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They replied, '**Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household**.'" (Acts 16:30-31, NLT)*
- B. The Christian lifestyle is a life of faith. Jn 3:16 whoever believes.
1. We are saved by grace through faith. Eph 2:8,9
 2. We stand by faith,
 3. We walk by faith 2 Core 5:7,
 4. We fight good fight of faith so we can overcome by faith. 1 Tim 6:12
- C. We are made right/righteous by faith.
1. *"**We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.**"* (Romans 3:22, NLT)
 2. *"For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. **People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,**"* (Romans 3:25, NLT)
 3. *"God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and **he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.**"* (Romans 3:26, NLT)
 4. Righteousness is based on faith. It's revealed through faith. It moves forward by faith, it matures through faith, and it ends in faith, in heaven (1 Cor 15:49). Faith is the Victory.
- D. The righteousness that God demands of us He provides for us Christ Jesus. And He makes us righteous when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. Rom 5:1 *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."*
 2. Abraham is our example. Ro 4:3-5

Conclusion:

- *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."* (2 Corinthians 5:7, NKJV)
- Step out and do something by faith (It takes two steps to make a walk.
- When you take a step, you will meet opposition from the adversary because you are stepping into the devil's camp and taking everything the he's stolen from you and is withholding from you. It becomes a walk when you don't back up but you step up by stepping again. Don't let the devil convince you that you can't do what you are already doing! If he brings opposition to what you are doing, do it again! Step two is what makes is a walk of faith instead of just a step of faith. Step two is what makes it trusting God instead of just trying God. Step to the devil and walk by faith, not by sight:

For extra study:

- A. What is it that God demands? He demands righteousness. But I want to first show us what righteousness is not.
1. Righteousness is not simply morality. So many have misunderstood righteousness as morality. le. Luke 18:10-14 Pharisee and sinner before God. *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (Luke 18:14, NKJV)
 - a) Apparently the Pharisee that Jesus speaks about in this parable was a morally upright man. He followed the laws as given in the Bible. He tithed and fasted twice a week! Moreover, he didn't steal, commit adultery, or take money from people, like the tax collector. Yet, his self-perceived and self-important moral uprightness was unacceptable to God.
 - b) But the sinner who humbled himself before God was justified (dikaioo).
 2. Righteousness is not simple goodness. Mark 10:18-22 Story of rich man who went away sad.
 - a) I believe that this man already believed that he was following the 'right recipe' for eternal life, and what he wanted from Jesus was confirmation.
 - b) But, Jesus doesn't rationalize the man's behavior as righteousness and worthy of eternal life; He instead looks into the man's heart and reveals to the world the man's true self. This man seemed to be a good man. He was a good son, a good husband, a good friend and a good neighbor. He was good, yet Jesus tells us basically that simply being good isn't going to be good enough.
 3. Righteousness is not the love of God.
 - a) The Love of God does not save us. If that were true then we would already be saved when God loves us.
 - b) The Love of God does not save us. The righteousness of God does! In His love He made a way for us to become righteous!