

Righteousness vs salvation

The Biblical “righteousness” and “salvation” are two things that confuse most Christians. Although salvation is used for both righteousness and salvation it is important to notice that the Bible distinguishes between the two.

So the question we must ask is:

1. What is righteousness?
2. What is salvation?

We are going to speak about righteousness and salvation and how it affects our relationship with God.

Today is not how the inner righteousness affects our behavior, because it will as we grow in Christ.

Does it matter how we behave? Yes, but Not for our eternal salvation, but it matters for this life. **What you sow you will harvest.**

If you sow seeds of righteous actions/ behavior, then you will harvest from that.

Remember!

You will normally not see any harvest directly after you sow the seeds.

The ground must be cultivated, it needs nutrition and water and sunlight.

Growing seeds to become a plant that is ready for a harvest is a process.

It takes time to mature the fruit to be ready for harvest.

You may have immature fruits and vegetables.

Then you have to be patient until the fruit is ready to pick.

This is what the Bible calls this:

we must work on our own salvation.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - **continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Now let us see how God is your righteousness, and not your own good work/ actions/ behaviors.

This seed of righteousness is that seed God planted in your spirit when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, **and their righteousness is of me**, saith the LORD.

The Bible testament tells us that the righteousness is of God.

When God says you are righteous, then you are righteous.

Right standing with God

Romans 4:3

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and **it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

Strong's Concordance

Greek: endikos: righteous, just

Righteousness

Greek: dikaiosuné

Usage: righteousness of which God is the source or author, but practically: a divine righteousness.

Our righteousness is because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

It's a free gift.

It shows in our life when we believe in Jesus.

When you invite Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, an incredible transformation takes place.

God places faith in your heart, and the Bible teaches us that this faith "speaks" through your mouth, expressing what is in your heart: a genuine belief in Jesus.

It's truly amazing how God works in our lives when we open our hearts and minds to Him.

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, **went home justified before God**. For all **those who exalt themselves will be humbled**, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Romans 10:6-10

6 But **the righteousness which is of faith speaketh** on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even **in thy mouth, and in thy heart:** that is, **the word of faith**, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

When we believe in Jesus we are not “credited” with righteousness, but we “are made” righteous in Christ.

Strong's Concordance

Greek: sōtērian

Usage: welfare, prosperity, deliverance, preservation, salvation, safety.

This is believers' deliverance, by the grace of God, from the eternal punishment for sin, but also for our welfare.

Salvation comes through speaking/ confessing the Word of God.

Verse 10: ... with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Salvation is God's deliverance of believers in Jesus Christ, from danger or suffering.

To be saved is to be delivered or protected.

The word salvation carries with it the idea of victory, health, or preservation.

These words refer to temporal, physical deliverance, such as Paul's deliverance from prison or divine healings that are done in the name of Jesus.

Philippians 1:19

19 For I know that this shall turn to **my salvation** through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

More familiar, the word "salvation" is the idea of eternal, spiritual deliverance.

As an example, When Paul told the Philippian jailer what he must do to be saved, he was referring to the jailer's eternal destiny.

Acts 16:30-31

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**

31 And they said, **Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

Matthew 19:24-25

24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying,

Who then can be saved?

The question becomes this:

1. **What are we saved from?**
2. And what are we saved too?

Believers are saved from “the wrath of God,” which is, from God’s judgment of sinners, by being **justified by His blood.**

Romans 5:9

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved (rescued) from wrath through him.

1. Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Scripture is very clear on the fact that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; **This is only available through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Acts 4:12

There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

Just, exactly how do we receive salvation?

We are saved by faith.

First, we must hear the gospel (the good news) of Jesus’ death and His

resurrection.

Ephesians 1:13.

¹³In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed^[a] with the promised holy Spirit,

Then, we must believe and fully trust the Lord Jesus.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: for Jew first, and then Greek.

This process involves repentance from unbelief to believe in Jesus, a changing of mind and heart, about the penalty of our sin that Jesus paid for.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹**for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

¹⁰ **For one believes with the heart and so is justified/ righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.**

Saved

Salvation is available in believing in the finished work of Jesus alone, and confessing to the world.

Acts 4:12

¹² There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

You are absolutely dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security.

Another way of looking at this:

1. The gospel is proclaimed, set forth before man in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. The person must receive and accept the Gospel when they hear the message with faith.
3. The person proclaims their new found faith by a public confession and through visible acts; that is, submission to baptisms and taking of the Lord's supper.

The Righteousness of Christ

People receive righteousness by believing that Jesus Christ was sent by God to be our Savior.

He took on our sin as it was His sin. God turned His back on Jesus on the cross because of Jesus's acceptance of our sin, and God cannot look at sin.

Christ is the sinless Son of God.

Christ , took humanity's sin upon himself and became the willing, perfect sacrifice.

Christ suffered the punishment mankind deserved.

God the Father accepted Jesus' sacrifice, through which human beings can become justified.

In return, believers receive righteousness from Christ.

Christ's perfect righteousness is applied to imperfect humans.

The Old Testament tells us that because of the sin of Adam, and you his descendant, have inherited the sinful nature.

Because of this, God set up a temporal system in the Old Testament times where people sacrificed animals to atone for their sins.

The shedding of blood was required. This was as a shadow/ example to what was to come later when Jesus died for our sins.

When Jesus entered the world, things changed.

His crucifixion and resurrection satisfied God's justice. (Justified)

Christ died a horrible death and was separated from God the Father for your sins.

Christ's shed his blood that cleanses us from our sin.

Because of this there are no more sacrifices or work required.

To be righteous in the eyes of God is a free gift.

You need to believe that Jesus died in your place and took the punishment for your sins, and that God resurrected him on the third day.

When you ask God to forgive you for your sins and ask Jesus to become your Lord and savior, you become in the right standing /righteous in the eyes of God.

You have now received the righteousness that Jesus made available for you.

We often call it that you have received the righteousness of Christ.

It is the righteousness of Christ that makes us holy and blameless before God.

Bible Verse About Righteousness

James 2:23

and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God.

God’s gift of righteousness comes through faith

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Righteousness comes from faith

Titus 3:5

He saved us, **not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness**, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Our salvation comes from His mercy because we have faith and commit to Him.

Training

By reading and studying the Word of God and opening your mind to

what in particular God is trying to show you.

We are protected by His grace and love, not by something we worked for and earned.

Philippians 1:11

having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

It comes to us as a gift, we do not earn or deserve it

The death we deserve under the law was suffered by Jesus. We are given righteousness through Him

Philippians 3:9

and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Under the law, sin deserves death. We are declared righteous because Jesus died for our sins.

Ephesians 6:14

Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness,**

Our job is to stand firm having received the grace of God through salvation.

There is Salvation only in one name. That name is Jesus Christ.