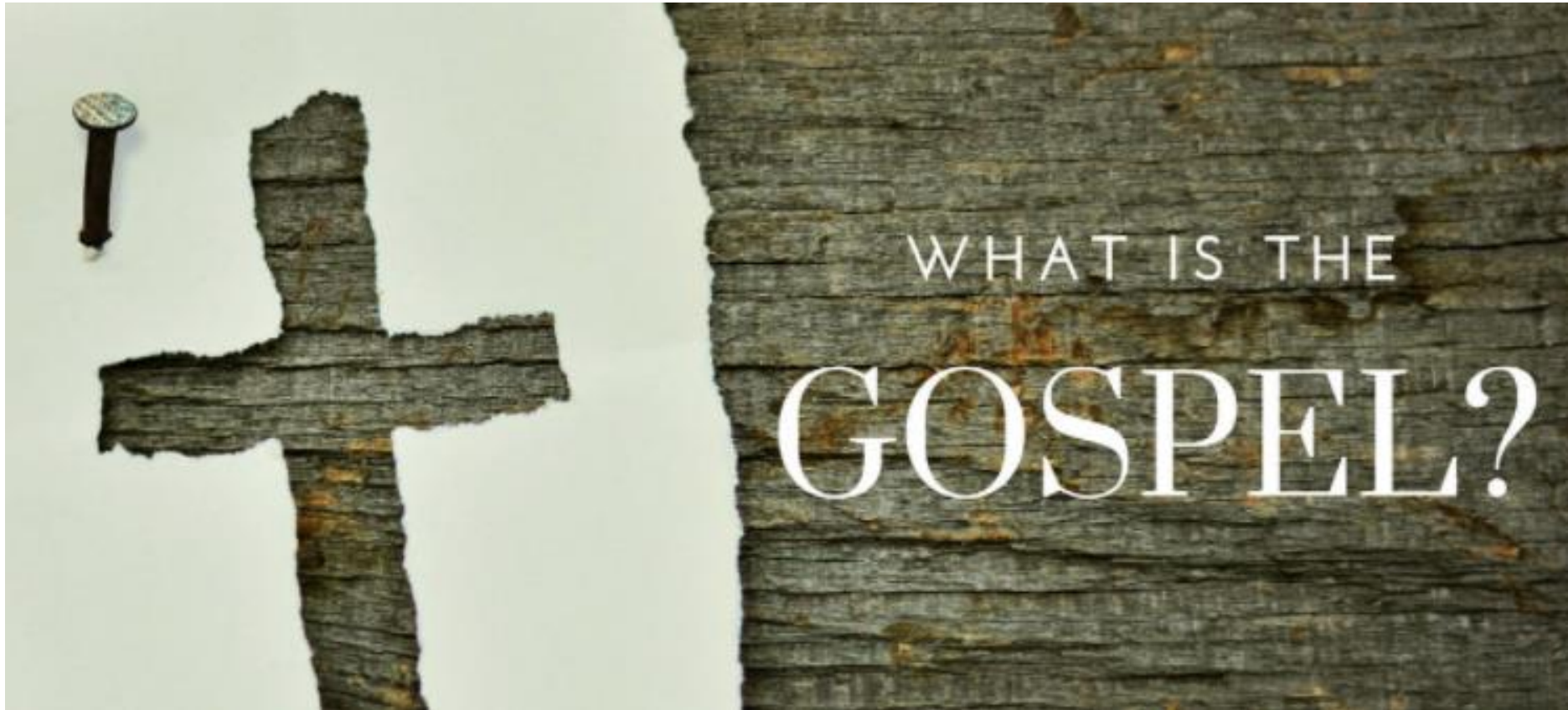


# Romans 1:16-17



**GET RIGHT WITH GOD!!**

[www.crossroadoftruth.org](http://www.crossroadoftruth.org)

# What is the Gospel?

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- A means of **forgiveness** of **sin**?
- A means of getting to **heaven** and avoiding **hell**?
- **How to Live** a morally good life and be happy?

Forgiveness is  
the cause

Eternal Life is  
the result

Lifestyle is the  
result

# Romans 1:16-17– The Gospel

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- <sup>16</sup> For I am **not ashamed** of the **Gospel of Christ**, for it is **the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- <sup>17</sup> **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

# What is the Gospel?

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- Romans describes the Gospel primarily as a Salvation from Unrighteousness to Righteousness
- Salvation is attaining The Righteousness of God.
- Therefore, The Gospel is about being “**JUSTIFIED**” or “**Declared Righteous**” by God.
- This results **Eternal Life**

The Gospel provides Salvation through the Righteousness of God!!

# Martin Luther Quote

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“...when I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, He justifies us through faith...

I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise...

this passage became a gateway to heaven.”

# What is the **RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE** of God

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## Psalm 89:14

“Justice and judgement are the foundation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”

## Psalm 9:8

“And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgement to the people in uprightness.”

## THE FOUNDATION OF GOD’S THRONE

- **Righteousness** – the moral standard of right and wrong based on God’s standards and terms.
- **Justice** – the Equitable & Impartial application of God’s moral laws.

# The Gospel is the Salvation Message

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- Good news of salvation & eternal life. We don't deserve it and cannot earn it. It is a gift of God to all who believe.
  - **Jesus who is God in human flesh, died on the Cross for the sins of the world,**
  - **He was buried,**
  - **He was raised from the dead after 3 days,**
  - **and all who believe in Him are saved from sin and its punishment (justified) and given the gift of eternal life.**  
(1 Cor. 15:3-4, Rom. 6:23)
- When you believe this, you are **Justified** and receive the **Righteousness** of God as a gift.

# How Can You Live Forever?

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## • Job 25:4 How then can man be righteous before God?

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- This is the most important question of humanity.
- In other words, **how can a person be Saved?**
- There is only one person who spoke with authority on this question... Jesus Christ – **The GOSPEL**



# The Gospel is the Righteousness of God Revealed

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- **What is Righteousness?**
- Right Standing with God as measured by God's Holy standards.
- Perfectly obeying all of God's 613 laws and other commands given by Jesus. This is impossible for man to do on his own. If you break even one law, you have broken all of the laws (James 2:10).
- Breaking any of God's laws is Sin. We cannot have any past sin and meet the Righteous Requirements of God.
- Sin cannot be in the presence of Holy God and God decreed that the just penalty of sin is Death. The only need for mankind is to have our sin problem solved so we can have Eternal Life.
- 2 Cor. 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (the great exchange

# The Cross – Reveals God’s Righteousness

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- Somehow sin must be dealt with to satisfy the Justice of God.
- **How can God keep His unconditional covenants to Abraham and David when the penalty of sin is death? ....A New Covenant!**
- The only way was for **Holy Substitute** to pay the price on the sinners behalf.
- Through the Cross, God not only allowed, but planned that the most unjust act that men would ever commit, would reveal His divine righteousness through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son.

# The Cross – The Greatest Act of Love

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- **Because of His Justice**, all sin will be punished (eternal death - hell).
- **Because of His Grace**, all sin can be forgiven by placing faith in Christ
- Redemption of mankind through God's love and grace is the greatest spiritual mystery... why,
  - **God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”** (Romans 5:8).
- We had a sin debt that we could not pay, and were lost and heading to destruction at judgement, but Christ paid it out of love to save us.

# Grace of God Revealed is Revealed through the Cross

DEATH

Jesus Reconciles sinful mankind to God – LOVE  
Jesus satisfied God's Justice & Wrath as our  
Substitute so we may be forgiven.

LIFE

**Our Sin**

Total Human  
Depravity &  
Unrighteousness



**God's  
Righteous-  
ness**

The Law

**God's Justice**

To give people  
what they deserve

**Grace &  
Salvation**  
(The Cross)

**God's Mercy**

To not give people  
what they deserve

# Does God Forgive Sin on Basis of Justice or Mercy?

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## 1 John 1:9

- “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and **JUST** to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- God forgives sin on the basis of His Justice, not His mercy
- God’s mercy and love was demonstrated by sending Jesus to the Cross
- **Jesus satisfied the just requirements of God on the Cross, God is legally and morally obligated to forgive sin based on His condition of Faith.**
- Therefore when you sin, don’t beg God to forgive you from His mercy, appeal to His Justice. 1 John 1:9 – Assurance of Salvation
- The price of your sin penalty has been paid in advance – you are Redeemed, not by gold and silver, but by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18)

# Righteousness of God = Law

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## The Most Important Question of Humanity is – How Do I Be “Right” with God

- Righteous – is a Legal standing that we are judged “Right” with God – God’s perfect character is the standard by which everyone is measured (which is expressed in the Mosaic Law). It’s right living in accordance with God’s standards and laws (in **Word, Deed and Thought**).
- On our own, it’s impossible to meet the righteousness demanded by God on judgement day since it’s impossible for us to obey all the commandments in the Bible without sinning – the standard of God’s perfection is too high for us to attain (we can’t measure up to it).
- The penalty of sin is spiritual death and eternity in hell, separated from God (Ez. 18:20; Rom. 6:23)
- So, how can we ensure that when we die, we are judged “right” with God in order to avoid the punishment? This is the big question. The bible says there will be a judgement (Rev. 20: 11-15) and Jesus Christ is the judge (John 5:16-30; Rev. 7:17). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) will avoid hell. (the lake of fire).
- How can a sinner be justified (“declared righteous”) before a holy and righteous God and avoid his wrath?
- The good news of the Gospel is that God, through His grace (an undeserved gift), reconciles us to Himself and judges us legally righteous based on nothing more than Faith in His Son, who He sacrificed on the cross out of love for all mankind.
- **The Righteousness of God is only found in Christ and is Imputed to those who Trust in the crucified Jesus Christ.**

# Salvation Message Meaning

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- “**Trust in Jesus and you will be saved**” Acts 16:31
- We are sinners deserving eternal death (Rom 3:23; 6:23), nothing we do on our own can satisfy God (“like filthy rags” Is. 64:6). Therefore everything Christ did for us was undeserved – this is **Grace**.
- Jesus Christ, who was without sin, died “as an offering for sin” acceptable to God, and paid the penalty of sin by **redeeming** those who believe. He was raised on 3<sup>rd</sup> day and conquered death, proving He was God.
- Our sins are imputed to Him, and His righteousness is imputed to us (Rom 3:24) so we may be judged Righteous to God (justified). In other words our sins are forgiven (Past, Present & Future) by His shed blood on the Cross (Heb. 9:22) which is the basis for the New Covenant. Christ “atoned” or substituted His life for ours and satisfied God as the last sacrifice required, “It is Finished”.
- We in turn are born again spiritually, freed from the power of Sin and we receive **eternal life** in Heaven. This is a free gift of God.
- All you need to do is admit you are sinner (with a repentant heart) and “**put your Trust (Faith) in the Lord Jesus Christ** and you will be saved” - What a salvation!!

# Righteousness Analogy 1

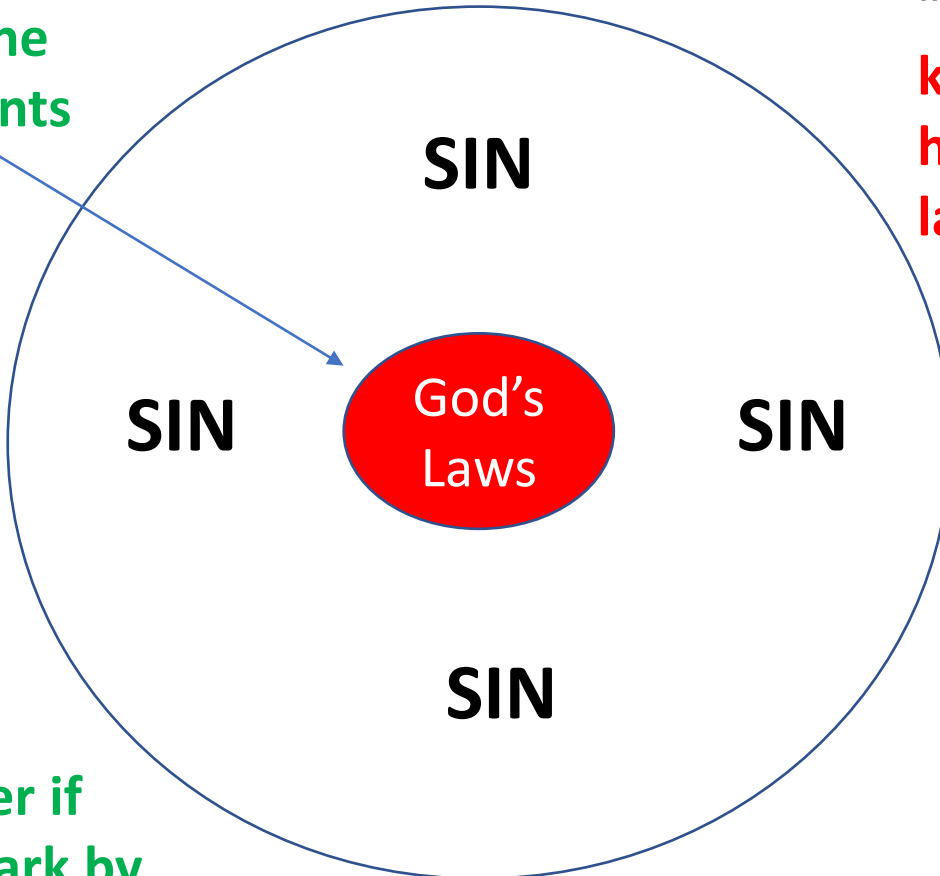
Sin literally means to Miss the Mark or the Bullseye in Archery

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The Bullseye is the  
10 Commandments

**“I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law.”** Romans 7:7

God’s laws represent the moral Character of God.



It doesn't matter if you miss the mark by a little or a lot.

**“for there is no difference, for all of sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**  
Romans 3.23



# Righteousness Analogy 2

The arbitrary requirement made by a city Police Force is that all new officers must be at least 7 Feet Tall to be accepted as Police officers (i.e. 10 Commandments).

7 Feet Tall = Righteous Requirement of Law = Glory of God

Don't measure yourself by judging others (works)



**Jesus Christ Fulfills the Righteous Requirement**  
(Rom. 3:21-22; Matt. 3:15; Matt. 5:17)

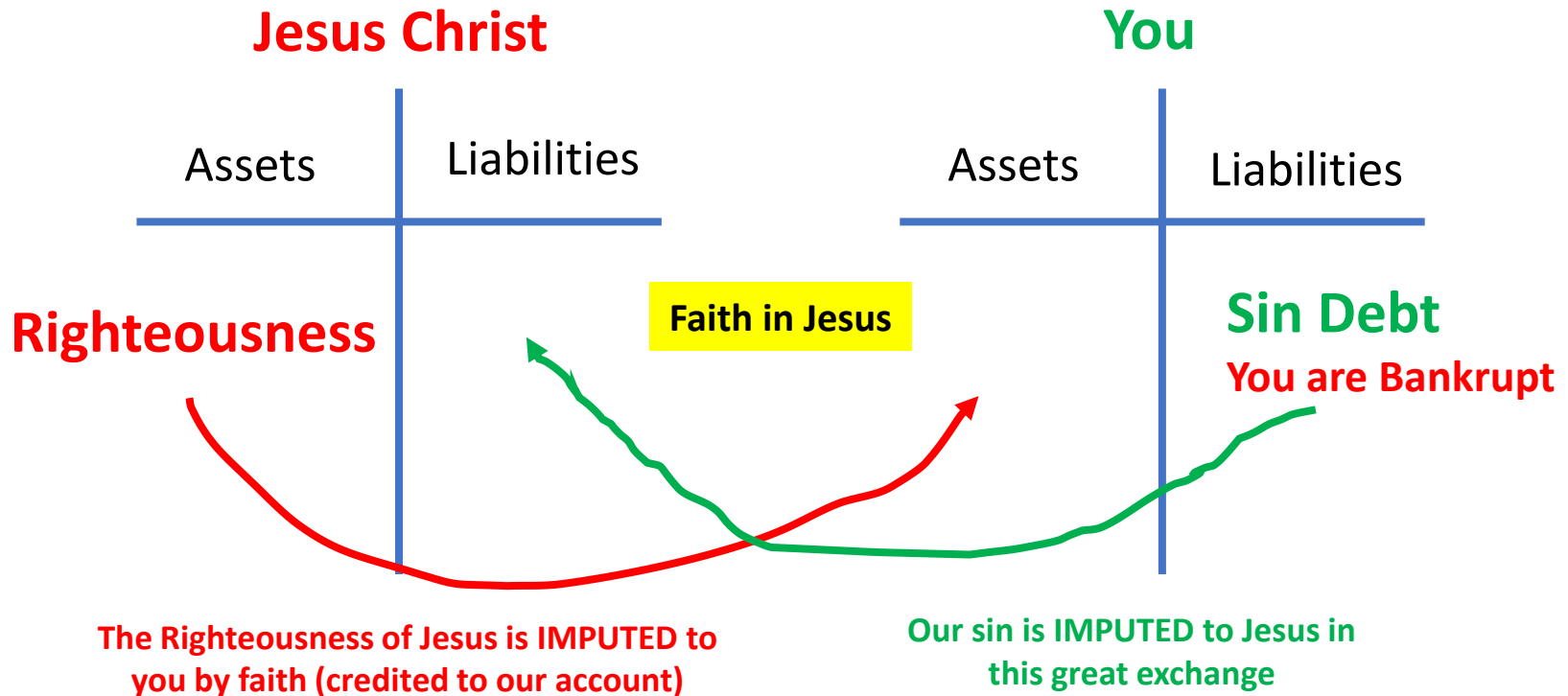
**“For there is no difference (drug addict, morally nice person, self-righteous person) for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”** (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

No one will ever measure up to the acceptable standard to become a police officer on the Police Force (Rom 3:10). Nothing we do on our own can make us tall enough. **The Righteousness of God (Salvation) is found only through faith in Christ.**

# Righteousness Analogy 3

Imputation Principle = The Heart of Salvation Doctrine

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## 2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

# Righteousness Analogy 4

## Exam Requirements to Enter University

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Entering the Kingdom of God is like having to pass an exam on every single aspect of Medicine in order to become a doctor, and the **exam requirement is 100%**

**99% is not good enough!**

To get just one small question wrong would mean you fail the entire exam.

# The Banker of the Universe

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- When you are in debt with a bank – who sets the terms of repayment? (Bank)
- If you were about to lose everything because you could not repay your debt, and a stranger came along and paid your debt for you, what would call that? (an undeserved gift – Grace)
- We are in debt to God – there is nothing we can do to repay it.
- We gave us an undeserved gift of the repayment of our debt, with one condition – that we put our faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- This is the only way to have your sin debt repaid and receive the gift of eternal life.
- This is not philosophy. These are God's terms.
- God said, "I Am who I Am" – not who you want God to be.

# What about the Law? (10 Commandments)

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1. The **Purpose** of the Law is to reveal God's character to us; (Rom 3:23 – we fall short of the law which is “Glory of God”)
2. The **Effect** of the law is to reveal our failure as humans to keep it; the Law reveals our sin/acts as a mirror/convict us of sin; (Rom 3:20)
3. Jesus **Fulfilled** the Law so that by faith in Him, He lives in us and God attributes (imputes) the perfect righteousness of His sinless Son to us so that we become perfect in His sight, since all our sins are forgiven through our faith in Christ (Matt. 5:17)

# The Law, Sin & New Covenant

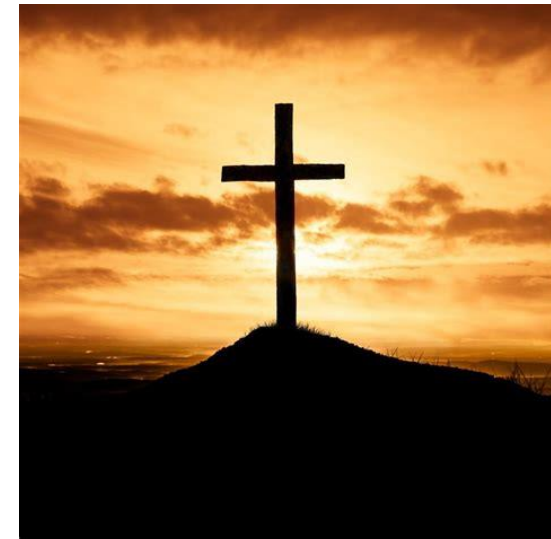
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- Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them**.”
- God’s Law (10 Commandments) is the “MARK” we aim for but it is impossible for us to keep. Why did He give us this law? So we can know what the moral character of God is and what sin is. Rom. 3:20
- 1 John 3:4 “sin is **lawlessness**” – therefore every time break the law, we sin.
- Rom. 3:23 “all have sinned and fall short of the **glory of God**”
- Therefore the LAW = The Glory of God = Character of God (**John 1:14** – Jesus)
- Sermon on the Mount teaches that the Law is far more than external behavioral commands (don’t kill or commit adultery) – it concerns the heart (don’t even think about sinful things!) – exposes to us the fact that **in our natural state, we cannot live up to God’s Character/Law (Rom. 8:3-4)**, yet Jesus also says in Matt 5:48 “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”
- **We need the Bad News (diagnosis) before the Good News (the remedy)**
- Many only want the remedy, but don’t want to deal with the cause, we must come to **despair/conviction** of what we are and realize that we are rotten to the core and need a new heart (New Covenant) – “**the mystery**” – “**Christ in us, the hope of glory**” Col. 1:27

# How do we attain Righteousness or Salvation and Eternal Life

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- **How can a sinner be justified (“declared righteous”)** before a holy and righteous God and avoid his wrath?
- **Jesus’s blood shed on the Cross was the price of our redemption.**
- He atoned & substituted his death for ours.
- We appropriate this redemption by first acknowledging our need for forgiveness of our sins and then putting our **faith** in the Jesus Christ as God and trusting in faith that His death, burial and resurrection was the greatest gift and act of love by God for you.



**FAITH is the Key that unlocks “the Door” to Heaven**

# How Do Other Religions View Righteousness?

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- All other religions have a goal to be “right with God”
- All other religions believe that they become “right” with God through things they do. This is what the Bible calls “**works**”.
- The Jews thought they could become righteous by obeying the Law or the **10 Commandments**.
- Works are things such as being a “**good person**”
- This is what the Bible calls “**self-righteousness**”
- In the story of the Rich Young Ruler, Jesus clearly shows that no amount of human good works is adequate to become righteous.
- Jesus said “**I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.**” (Mark 2:17)
- Isaiah said “But we are all like an unclean *thing*,  
And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;” (Is. 64:6)



# Philippians 8

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- <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ
- <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**
- <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

# The Righteousness of God

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- **Romans 3:21-28**
- “<sup>21</sup> **But now** (because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross) **the righteousness (without guilt or sin) of God** has been manifested ...**through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**
- For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- <sup>24</sup> and **are justified (declared righteous) by his grace (unmerited favor) as a gift (not anything you can do),** through the **redemption (price paid to free a guilty slave-debt paid off/cleared)** that is in Christ Jesus...<sup>28</sup> For we hold that **one is justified by faith** apart from works...”

# Romans 3:24

Being  
**justified**  
**freely** by  
His **grace**  
through the  
**redemption**  
that is in  
**Christ**  
**Jesus:**



**Ransom:** The price paid to buy someone back (the price of redemption – Mark 10:45 – we had a debt that we could not pay, and we did not deserve it, but Jesus paid the ransom price for us through His blood)



**Ransom:** Referred to the price of a slave in Jesus' time

# How Do we Get Righteousness

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- **Righteousness comes from God and is revealed in Jesus Christ.**
- You now have the medicine to cure death and live forever in heaven with this knowledge.
- **Righteousness must be received by putting your faith in Jesus Christ.**
- Believing a Tylenol will cure your headache won't take away your pain. You must receive the Tylenol and appropriate it through faith.

# Why You Need Righteousness

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- What is the main message of Jesus and Christianity? Is it about happiness, success, being a better person, helping others, etc.? NO

**IT'S ALL ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE!!!**

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**We Need to be Resurrected to Life**

- Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- **IT'S ABOUT OVERCOMING SIN AND DEATH AND JUDGEMENT!**
- **WE NEED THE SALVATION & RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE. ONLY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST CAN PROVIDE THIS.**

# What Happens When We Die?

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## Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”

- Everyone will be judged as either **Righteous or Unrighteous**, and then to Heaven or Hell.
- **John 5:19-29**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgWQbyfMIGc&list=PLcJVluhI8isK1RYcLxY0L929cnN3vALi8&index=11>

# Judgement – Heaven or Hell

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## The most serious truth in the Bible:

- Jesus loves you and died for you (John 3:16).
- If you don't ask Jesus to come into your heart and be your saviour (John 1:12), you will die in your sins (John 8:24) and be judged to go straight to hell (Rev. 20:11-15).

# Humanity's Greatest need is to be Judged Righteous to avoid Hell

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- God is a God of both Love and Justice, and justice is the attribute that condemns a man.
- If we break the law, we are “**condemned**” and must pay the penalty.
- If we pay the penalty of the legal charge or are acquitted or pardoned in court, we are **justified** or declared righteous and just. **This is “justice”**.
- God declares that we are condemned as sinners, and since His justice requires the **penalty of death for sin (hell)**, we need to be forgiven, or to have the penalty of our crimes paid for by a substitute (grace an undeserved gift).
- **So, how can we ensure that when we die, we are judged “right” with God in order to avoid the punishment ? This is the big question. (Job 9:2)**
- The Bible says **there will be a judgement** (Rev. 20: 11-15) and **Jesus Christ is the judge** (John 5:16-30; Rev. 7:17). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) will avoid hell. (the lake of fire).



# What is Our Greatest Need - LIFE

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- **Man has one problem...DEATH – how can we become immortal and live forever?**
  - But the Bible says that the real root problem is sin, since **death is the result of sin.** (Romans 5:12)
  - Therefore if people can resolve the sin problem, they also resolve the death problem.
  - **The only thing humanity really needs is LIFE!!!** Eternal Life.
- 

**John 10:10** <sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

**John 17:3** <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

# ETERNAL LIFE

## 1 John 5:9-13

• <sup>9</sup> If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for **this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son....**

• <sup>11</sup> **And this is the testimony: that God has given us ETERNAL LIFE, and this life is in His Son.**

• <sup>12</sup> **He who HAS the Son has LIFE; he who does not have the Son of God does not have LIFE.**

• <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may KNOW that you have eternal life**, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

Salvation comes from God

Salvation is a gift – not of works

Only Two Options: Eternal Life or Eternal Death

How do we get what we want (eternal life)? It can only be obtained from receiving God's Son, Jesus Christ, in faith.

This is about FACT (Know, reckon, count on it) based on the Word of God, not your feelings

# What the Bible Says About Life & Death

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## Ecclesiastes 8:8

- <sup>8</sup> No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, **And no one has power in the day of death.** *There is* no release from that war, And wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it.

## Job 14:1-2

- **14 “Man who is born of woman is of few days** and full of trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

## Psalms 90:10

- <sup>10</sup> **The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,**  
Yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

## 1 Timothy 6:7

- <sup>7</sup> **For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.**

## John 11:17-36

# I AM the Resurrection and the Life

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- V.25 - **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**
- This is the whole purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Putting your trust in Jesus is the ONLY way you can be legally justified and attain the Righteousness of God.
- This is the greatest truth of the universe. Amen