

The Lord Our God

“ . . . that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.”

(Exodus 8:10)

LESSON #5: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jeremiah 23 contains a wonderful prophecy of Christ that uses the name Jehovah in reference to Him.

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (verses 5-6)

The name by which Christ will be called by Judah and Israel when they are saved is, in Hebrew, Jehovah-tsidkenu, the Lord Our Righteousness.

This name is used again in Jeremiah 33 in another, very similar, prophecy of Christ and His Kingdom.

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness.” (verses 14-16)

Jesus (Jehovah in the flesh) will not only rule as King over restored Israel and as King of Kings over the world, He will be the very righteousness of His people.

The description of the Kingdom in Isaiah 26 is very exciting. Be sure to read it before next Sunday! The Kingdom will be characterized by righteousness (Note verses 2, 7, 9, and 10). Yet a careful examination of this chapter reveals that the Lord Himself is their Righteousness.

Imputed Righteousness

The Bible doctrine of “*imputed*” righteousness is especially taught in Romans 3 and 4. Let’s study these important chapters. Notice four truths:

1. We are justified, not by our own righteousness, but by God’s! (Romans 3:1-26)

2. His righteousness justifies us when we believe in Christ for our salvation! (Romans 3:22-31) What Christ did saves us, not what we do. We are saved by what He did when we trust in Him alone for our salvation. In this way we are justified before God by faith alone.
3. Even Old Testament saints such as Abraham, who lived before Christ came, were justified by faith alone (Romans 4:1-3). They believed in Christ before He came on the basis of God's promise to send a Savior.
4. Faith in Christ not only appropriates His blood as the propitiation for our sins, but it also appropriates His sinless life as the other basis of our acceptance by God. (Romans 4:4-22) His righteousness is "*counted*" (v. 5), "*reckoned*" (v. 9), and "*imputed*" (v. 11) to our credit for the righteousness we need to be accepted by God. We have no righteousness of our own. God offers us His righteousness for our salvation. Isn't this amazing?

Scripture in many places pictures the imputation of God's righteousness to us as putting on a white robe. Look at these places:

1. The clothing of Adam and Eve with coats provided by the slaying of an animal (Genesis 3).
2. The clothing of Joshua the high priest with new garments to replace filthy ones (Zechariah 3).
3. The clothing of the Lamb's wife with fine linen, which is "*the righteousness of saints*" (Revelation 19).

The plan of salvation provides sinners with righteousness by reckoning Christ's righteousness as ours when we put our faith in Him. In this way, the Lord is our Righteousness. Remember that it is specifically Christ's righteous life that is imputed to us and that THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS is specifically a name for Christ!

Imparted Righteousness

The Lord is our Righteousness. This truth speaks of Christ's righteousness being reckoned (imputed) to us so that we can be accepted by God and saved from the penalty of sin. This doctrine is *all over* the New Testament. Find it in Romans 10:3-4, I Corinthians 1:30-31, II Corinthians 5:21, and Philippians 3:8-9, as well as in Romans 4.

However, Jehovah-tsidkenu also speaks of the fact that the Lord is our practical righteousness as well as our legal righteousness. He is our Righteousness for living as well our Righteousness for getting to Heaven!

According to II Corinthians 3, the "*changed*" life of the Christian is really the reflection of Christ in his life! The preaching of the Gospel produces "*righteousness*" in the life in a way the Law could never do (vs. 1-11). By the Spirit of God, Christ has come into our lives, and people can see Him (vs. 12-18; also 4:5-11). In II Corinthians 13 says that "*Jesus Christ is in you*" (v. 5). Galatians 2:20 says that "*Christ liveth*" in the yielded Christian. Philippians 1:21 says, "*to live in Christ.*" Colossians 3:4 refers to "*Christ, who is our life.*" I John 2:29 says that "*every one that doth righteousness is born of him*

[God].” The reason this is true, according to I John 3:9, is that

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

Christ’s seed in us “cannot sin,” and the only true righteousness we have is Christ in us!

Therefore the only way to live right is to yield to the Lord for His righteousness to be manifest in our lives. This is not a strange doctrine; it is a very practical one! See it in Romans 6 as well as in II Corinthians 3. Find this week that the Lord is your righteousness. Lean on Him for the power to live right!