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## Righteousness - A Gift From God

Finances cont. #5

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God is for us financially and the following scriptures assure us that this is true. It is beneficial to us that we meditate them before we give our offerings. Become established in what God has for us and how much that He wants to bless us, however, there are some conditions in order for us to receive what He has for us.

Pro 8:21 "That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures." KJV

Matt 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." KJV

Pro 10:22 "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." KJV

Isaiah 45:3 "And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel." KJV

Isaiah 45:14 "Thus saith the Lord, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God." KJV

Isaiah 45:14 "Thus says the Lord: The labor and wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Ethiopia and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you and they shall be yours; they shall follow you; in chains [of subjection to you] they shall come over, and they shall fall down before you; they shall make supplication to you, saying, Surely God is with you, and there is no other, no God besides Him." AMP

Pro 13:22 "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just." KJV

The bible teaches that God gives to the sinner the ability to get wealth in order for them to heap and pile up or lay up treasures, that they shall give over to us, to give to us whose ways are pleasing to the Lord. There will be a transfer of wealth coming from darkness into light, it will go with the revival that is to come, may start as a trickle but will become a flood. God is for us and wants to bless us, He is also watching to see how we will handle what He has done for us, is our hearts right with Him or have we forgotten who gave us the ability to get wealth?

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Righteousness is a gift from God, a gift that we receive when we become born again, those that have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Even though we stumble and miss the mark we can be assured that because of the blood of Jesus, we have received righteousness.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to \*cleanse us from all unrighteousness." KJV

Previously to this scripture we learn the importance of the blood of Jesus, but when we are born

again we sometimes come into the body of Christ on different levels, we don't know anything, but the church will sometimes try to put rules and regulations or laws on the new converts. Paul and Peter dealt with this in Acts and James; they had council deciding that they would not put this teaching, these laws on the new converts.

Sometimes we miss the mark, even though our heart can be right, because of a lack of knowledge, if we may miss the mark unknowingly, the blood will take care of everything. When knowledge comes and we miss the mark knowing better, it becomes a different matter. After we have missed the mark, have repented and ask for forgiveness, then we cannot continue to walk with guilt in our lives. God has forgiven and we must continue to walk in Gods righteousness. We cannot allow our minds to tell us that we are second rate, seeing ourselves as failures for the remainder of our lives. But we are the righteousness of God; it is His plan for our lives.

Based on what 1 John 1:9 tells us, Jesus has expunged our lives, we have received a pardon, have been washed with the blood of Jesus, there is no longer a record of our sin, it is totally forgiven and forgotten. It is not kept on file to take out and look at, but has been blotted out with no remembrance of us ever having done it. This is how God wants us to see the blood, how the blood of Jesus is so much more superior to the blood of bulls and goats, His blood wiped out our sin, but the blood of bulls and goats only covered the sin of the people.

\*Cleanse means to purify from the pollution of sin and guilt. Guilt will cause us to live a low level of Christianity even though we are forgiven, but the process is not complete from Gods view until guilt is blotted out, with no remembrance of it.

We find in the following scriptures that there are different kinds of sin. But we have been declared righteous, set free from sin and guilt, have been washed, sanctified and justified by the name of Jesus.

1 Cor 6:9-11 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And ***such were some of you***: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." KJV

1 Cor 6:9-11 "Do you not know that the unrighteous *and* the wrongdoers will not inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled): neither the impure *and* immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, 10 Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers *and* slanderers, nor extortioners *and* robbers will inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God. 11 And such some of you were [once]. But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [pronounced **righteous**, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God." AMP

How do we define righteousness? In Romans 9 and 10 we read that the people tried to establish their own righteousness because of being ignorant of Gods righteousness. Many people today try to define righteousness as having to do everything right, trying to do it on their own and failing to accept what God has already done for them, totally separate from them deserving it or earning it. Trying to establish righteousness on their own will last for maybe a

day or two and then when they stumble, guilt and remorse come into their lives. This is not Gods plan on righteousness.

Righteousness as described in the Bible is the ability to come into the presence of God without the sense of condemnation, guilt or shame or unworthiness. None of us can do this based on our own righteousness. We have the righteousness of the law, which was shared in 1 Cor 6, but we have another righteousness that comes as a free gift based on Jesus and the new covenant.

Reading the entire 5th chapter of Romans, will enable us to fully understand and see what is being said regarding the two people, Adam and Jesus that are talked about here. Through Adam, one man's offense, sin was passed on to us, we had no choice. But through Jesus sin came on everyone and because of Jesus sacrifice, righteousness has come upon everyone that accepts Jesus as their Savior.

Rom 5:17 "For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)." AMP

Rom 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)" KJV

Gods plan is that we reign in life through the gift of righteousness. The righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. There are fruits of righteousness, but we cannot work hard enough to have righteousness without Jesus which is a gift.

2 Tim 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." KJV

When we are born in the natural, we are born without sin, no faults, no past, or baggage we are born righteous, we have right standing with God. However, because of sin coming into our lives we lose that right standing, but when we are born again, we again acquire that right standing with God because of the price that Jesus paid. It is based on what Jesus did, not what man has done, what man did through Adam continually drags us down and many people like to live this way. God wants us to rise up and walk in His righteousness and be a man or woman of faith.

Gods plan is that believers reign as kings in life, we may struggle in order to get into this place, but we are to reign and rule over sin. Now the strength of sin is the law and in Romans 7 it talks about that sin being the strength of the law, but chapter 8 tells us we are delivered from that law of sin, we have power over sin and sin no longer dominates and we are no longer slaves to sin.

Weymouth translates Romans 5:17 as saying; "for if through the transgression of one individual who was Adam, death made use of the one individual to seize the severity, all the more shall those who receive Gods overflowing grace and gift of righteousness reign in life through that one individual Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ is far superior to Adam. Another translation renders the same verse as; "that one man Adam when he sinned put all men under the rule of death, but the other man Jesus Christ makes men right with God so they shall live and rule like kings, this he does for all who accept Gods rich forgiving love and His free gift."

Rom 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)" KJV

Righteousness is a gift, it is not even associated with works of righteousness in any way. Many people refuse to accept this gift wanting to do their own thing, but it cannot be earned by their works. We have to accept the gift of righteousness that is freely given.

2 Tim 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" KJV

We are receiving instruction in righteousness.

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a \*new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a \*new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come! 18 But all things are from God, Who through *Jesus* Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]. 19 It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] *and* be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]." AMP

\* creature or creation - something that has not been before.

Because of becoming a new creature or creation we have received the gift of righteousness, we were once unrighteous and unworthy but now through Jesus Christ. There has been a change.

Paul states in 2 Corinthians 7, that he has "wronged no man", even though in his earlier years before being born again, he was instrumental in persecuting many believers unto death, causing many to be imprisoned, he has been expunged by the blood of Jesus, there being no record, it has been blotted out, he is a new creature in Jesus. This is the way that God wants us to view ourselves, don't tie yourself to the past, it will inhibit you pressing in for your future. Forget and forgive it will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

v. 18 - But all things are from God, Who through *Jesus* Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of \* reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

v. 19 - It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

\* reconciliation means reconciling and restoring the world to favor, not holding mens trespasses, but has cancelled them.

If we are taking this message to someone, the ministry of reconciliation, are we going to tell them, someone who has never been born again, that God is holding all those past sins and is keeping track of those sins, He knows everything you have ever done, and you will one day be judged for all those sins, will this sound like the good news of the gospel to them? We must tell them about the cancellation of all the sins, the price of those sins being paid in full by what Jesus did at the cross, that He shed his blood for those sins, making them new creatures, totally forgiven and given the gift of righteousness. Jesus taking all the sins of the world on himself, went into the bowels of hell suffering what we would suffer and brought out the keys of death and hell and rose from the grave. Jesus paid the price and the only thing they will be held guilty of, will be not accepting Jesus as their Savior.

"God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." We are made the righteousness of Jesus. There are many scriptures that tell us who we are in him. If we are born again we are in harmony with the Father.