

The Righteousness of God vs. The Righteousness of Man

<https://tinyurl.com/RightWithGod>

Week 1 — What is “Righteousness” in the Bible?

- Define the word. God’s character sets the standard.
- **Psalm 119:142** — “Your justice is eternal, and your law is reliable.”
- **Deuteronomy 32:4** — God is “just and upright.”
- Man does not define righteousness. God does.

Week 2 — The Problem of Human Righteousness

- Human righteousness is incomplete and unreliable.
- **Isaiah 64:6** — “All our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag.”
- **Romans 3:10** — “There is no one righteous.”
- Show how sin distorts every human attempt to be right on our own.

Week 3 — The Holiness and Justice of God

- God’s righteousness flows from His holiness.
- **Isaiah 6:3–5** — Isaiah’s reaction to God’s holiness.
- **Habakkuk 1:13** — God’s eyes are too pure to look on evil.
- Man cannot stand before God by personal merit.

Week 4 — The Law and the Exposure of Sin

- The Law reveals God’s standards. It also shows our failure.
- **Romans 3:19–20** — The Law shuts every mouth.
- **Romans 7:7–12** — The Law exposes sin.
- Early Christian writers saw the Law as a tutor leading us to see our need for Christ.

Week 5 — Abraham: The Pattern of God’s Righteousness

- Abraham believed God. God counted it as righteousness.
- **Genesis 15:6** (quoted in **Romans 4:3**).
- Righteousness comes from trusting God, not earning favor.
- The early church used Abraham as the model of a faith-based relationship with God.

Week 6 — The Righteousness of God Revealed in Christ

- Jesus fulfills and embodies God’s righteousness.
- **Romans 3:21–22** — Righteousness apart from the Law revealed in Jesus.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** — God made Christ “to be sin for us... so that we may become the righteousness of God.”
- Christ is the center of God’s saving righteousness.

Week 7 — Justification: Declared Righteous by Faith

- God declares sinners righteous because of Christ.
- **Romans 5:1** — We are justified by faith.
- **Titus 3:5–7** — Salvation is by mercy, not works.
- This was a major teaching of the apostles and early Christians.

Week 8 — The Gift of Righteousness and the New Birth

- God does more than declare us righteous. He creates new life in us.
- **John 3:3–6** — Born of water and Spirit.
- **1 Peter 1:23** — Born again through the living word.
- The new birth produces new desires that align with God’s righteousness.

Week 9 — Sanctification: Living Out God’s Righteousness

- God forms His righteousness in us over time.
- **Romans 6:11–14** — Present yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness.
- **Ephesians 4:23–24** — Put on the new self, created in God’s righteousness.
- Restoration writers emphasized holiness as the fruit of true faith.

Week 10 — Human Attempts at Righteousness Still Fail

- Even believers can fall back into self-made righteousness.
- **Galatians 3:1–3** — Started by the Spirit, now trying by the flesh.
- **Philippians 3:4–9** — Paul counts his own righteousness as loss.
- Warn about legalism, pride, and self-trust.

Week 11 — God’s Righteousness in Community

- God forms a righteous people, not just righteous individuals.
- **1 Peter 2:9–12** — A holy nation that displays God’s character.
- **Titus 2:11–14** — A people “zealous for good works.”
- The church is a living witness to God’s righteousness.

Week 12 — Living Between Two Righteousness’s

- Summarize the contrast:
 - **Righteousness of man:** self-trust, works, performance, pride.
 - **Righteousness of God:** grace, faith, Christ, new life.
- **Matthew 5:20** — Our righteousness must “exceed” that of the scribes and Pharisees.
- **Romans 10:3–4** — Israel failed because they “sought to establish their own righteousness.”
- Encourage a life that depends on God’s righteousness every day.