Righteousness of God

Now we do speak wisdom among the mature, but *not a wisdom of this age or of the* **rulers of this age**, *who are perishing*. (7) Instead, *we speak the wisdom of God*, **hidden in a mystery**, *that God determined before the ages for our glory*. (8) ***None of the*** **rulers of this age** ***understood it.*** ***If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory***. (9) But just as it is written, *"Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those who love him."* (10) God has revealed these to us by the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (11) For who among men knows the things of a man except the man's spirit within him? So too, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (12) Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things that are freely given to us by God. (13) And we speak about these things, not with words taught us by human wisdom, but with those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. (14) The unbeliever does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. And he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (15) The one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is understood by no one. (16) *For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to advise him?* But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

https://tinyurl.com/RightWithGod

Quick Review
Foundations of Man's Righteousness

From the beginning, <u>sin introduced uncertainty</u> into the human experience. When <u>humanity lost trust in God</u>, <u>fear took its place</u>. Fear, in turn, <u>demands control</u>, and control leads people to <u>build systems</u>. Genesis 3 captures this shift when Adam says, "*I was afraid… so I hid*." Fear pushes people to ask: Am I safe? Am I accepted? Am I right? <u>Instead of resting in God's righteousness, humans attempt to manufacture their own</u>.

This pattern repeats throughout history. <u>Uncertainty leads to systems, systems shape culture, culture defines a "path to the good life," and those systems are enforced against anyone who questions them</u>. The Pharisees are a clear example. After centuries without prophetic guidance, they believed that perfect obedience to all 613 laws would force God's hand and restore Israel. <u>Their theological systems became cultural identity, enforced as righteousness</u>.

Because religious leaders like the Levites were socially insulated and did not experience the consequences of their teachings, they could impose heavy burdens on others without feeling their weight. Jesus directly confronted this hypocrisy, noting how leaders placed crushing demands on people while refusing to help carry them.

Quick Review
Foundations of Man's Righteousness

The same pattern can appear in the Church today. Communities may silence truth-tellers because they create discomfort. Over time, this leads to a culture disconnected from reality. <u>When leaders confuse God's Word with their interpretations of it, human reasoning becomes codified as divine truth</u>. This creates harm, benefits some, and elevates man-made systems to a place only God should hold.

<u>The solution is not more certainty through systems, but deeper security in Christ</u>. We must prioritize relationship over control, humility over certainty, and Christ Himself as Truth. Systems feel safe and logical, but relationships are messy and uncertain. Yet they are where spiritual life, meaning, and God's blessing are found.

For this reason…
John 18:37

Jesus replied, "… **For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world – to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.**

John 18:33-37

(33) So Pilate went back into the governor's residence, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

(34) Jesus replied, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or have others told you about me?"

(35) Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own people and your chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

(36) Jesus replied, **"My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my servants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."**

(37) Then Pilate said, "So you are a king!" Jesus replied, "You say that I am a king. **For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world – to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."**

Joh 14:6

(6) Jesus replied, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Joh 14:23

(23) Jesus replied, "**If anyone loves me, he will obey my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up residence with him**.

I Cor. 2:13-16

"…**but we have the mind of Christ**"

Behold the Man!
John 19:5

*"None of the rulers of this age understood it. **If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**."* Paul the Apostle, 1 Corinthians 2:8

Ecce Homo ("Behold the Man") by **Antonio Ciseri, 1871**

The title comes from **John 19:5**: *"So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Look, here is the man!'"*

John 19:4–6 : *"Then Pilate went outside again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no reason for an accusation against him.' So Jesus came out… When the chief priests and their officers saw him, they shouted out, 'Crucify! Crucify!'"*

This reflects **Isaiah 53:7**: *"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth."*

Connection to this Study Theme

This image visually captures:

    the righteousness of God standing silent
    the righteousness of man expressed through law, crowd pressure, and political calculation
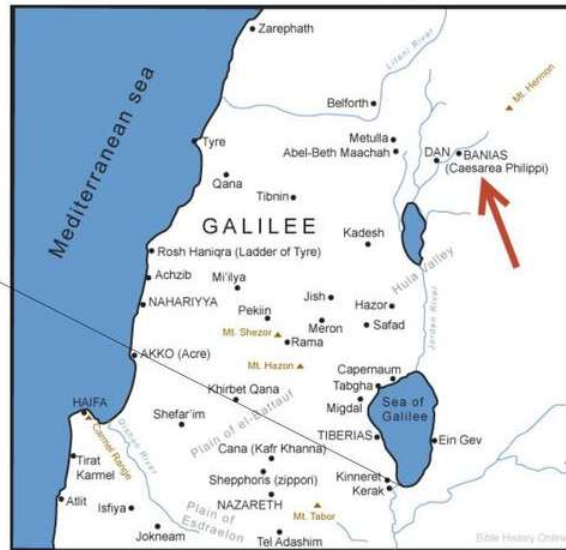
Pilate represents <u>system-driven order</u>.
The crowd represents <u>fear-driven morality</u>.
Jesus represents <u>God's righteousness without control</u>.

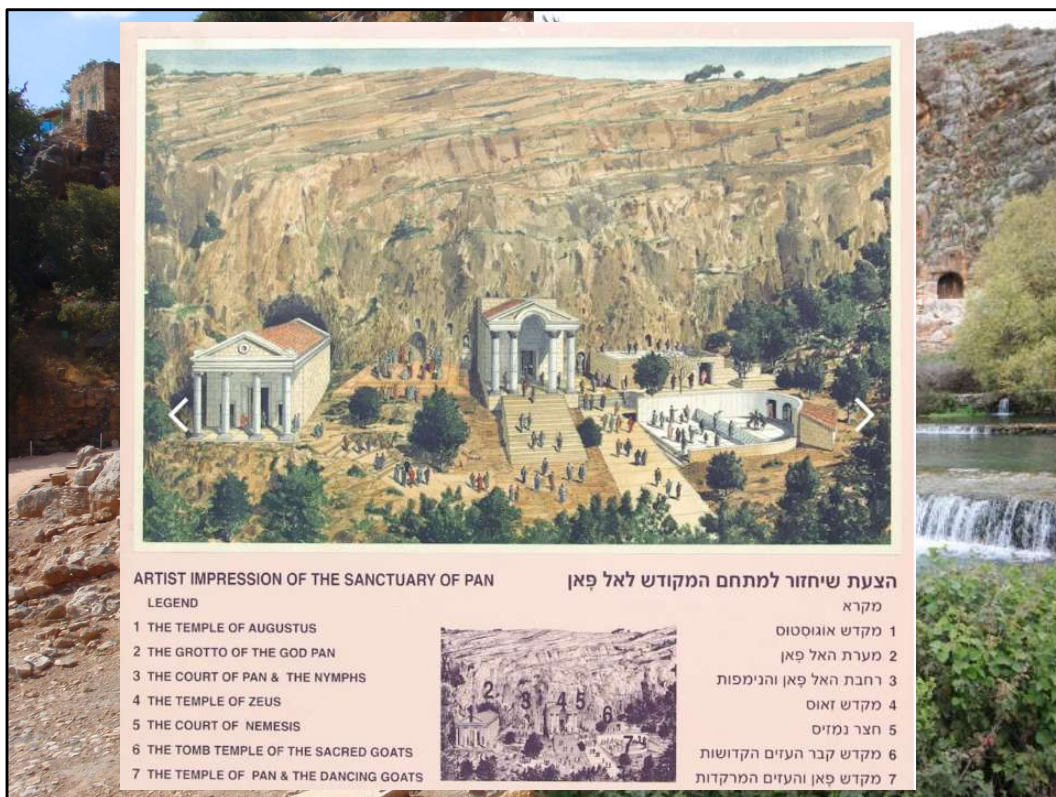**John 18:36** : *"My kingdom is not from this world."*

That contrast is the heart of the painting.

Jesus in Caesarea Philippi

"Upon this rock" : Mark 8:27-38; Matthew 16:13-28; Luke 9:18-27
"Upon the high mountain" : Mark 9:2-12; Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36
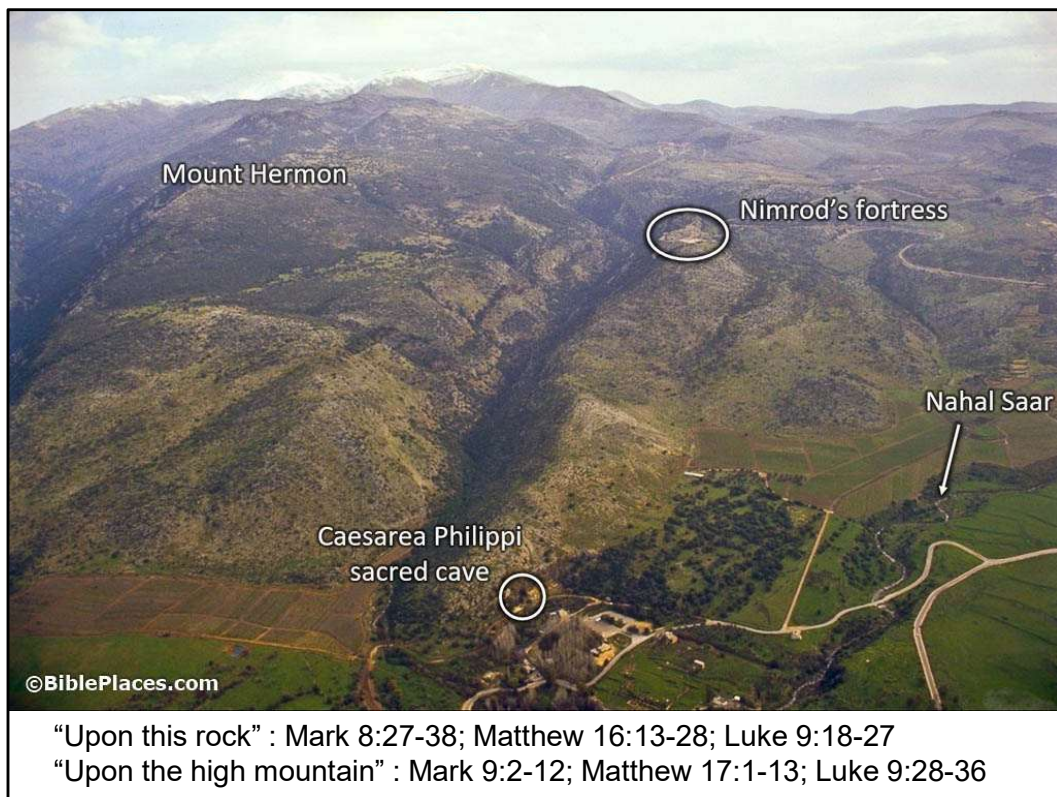
ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE SANCTUARY OF PAN

LEGEND

1 THE TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS
2 THE GROTTO OF THE GOD PAN
3 THE COURT OF PAN & THE NYMPHS
4 THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS
5 THE COURT OF NEMESIS
6 THE TOMB TEMPLE OF THE SACRED GOATS
7 THE TEMPLE OF PAN & THE DANCING GOATS

הצעת שיחזור למתחם המקודש לאל פָּאן

מקרא

1 מקדש אוגוסטוס
2 מערת האל פָּאן
3 רחבת האל פָּאן והנימפות
4 מקדש זאוס
5 חצר נמזיס
6 מקדש קבר העזים הקדושות
7 מקדש פָּאן והעזים המרקדות

Mount Hermon
Nimrod's fortress
Nahal Saar
Caesarea Philippi sacred cave
©BiblePlaces.com

"Upon this rock" : Mark 8:27-38; Matthew 16:13-28; Luke 9:18-27
"Upon the high mountain" : Mark 9:2-12; Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36
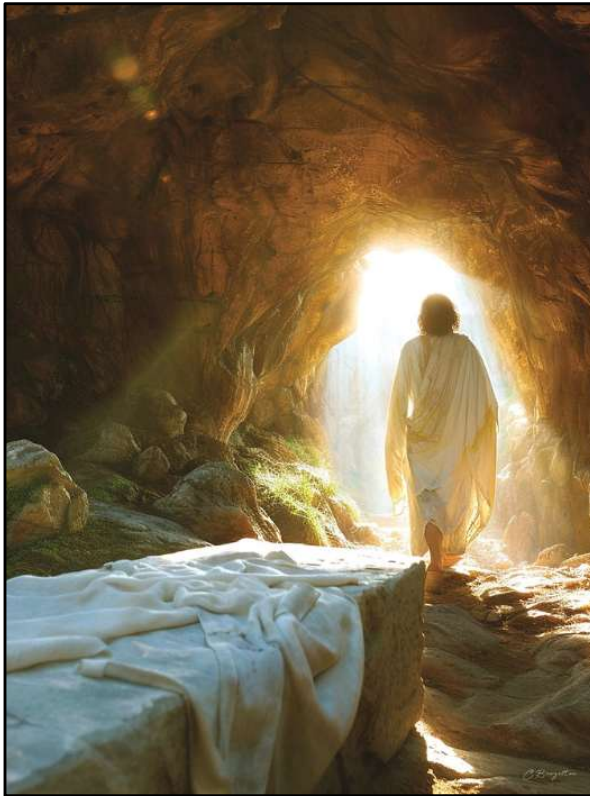
Mount Hermon is:
- The **highest mountain** in the region
- In Second Temple thought:
  - High places = authority
  - Mountains = divine or cosmic meeting points
  - Mt Hermon becomes:
  - The **origin site** of angelic rebellion
  - The place where heaven–earth boundaries were violated

In **1 Enoch**, Mount Hermon is the place where angels broke covenant with God, corrupted humanity, and triggered a chain of judgment that explains the origin of demons, making the Hermon region a symbolic ground zero for cosmic rebellion in Second Temple Jewish thought.

Luke 24 – Emmaus Road – Jesus had to "open their minds" to understanding.

See the document: Synopsis of the 1st Enoch Narrative

He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. **Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross**. (Col 2:14-15)

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise shared in their humanity, so that **through death He could destroy the one who holds the power of death** (that is, the devil) and **set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death**. For surely his concern is not for angels, but He is concerned for Abraham's descendants. (Heb 2:14-16)

Reclaim the Sacred Space

Matt 28:16-20 So the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain Jesus had designated. (17) When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. (18) Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Temple is now represented by each Human Being. The sacred space. Take the Kingdom back one temple at a time.

Righteousness Starts With God, Not Man
Who is the standard?

Romans 10:3 *They sought to establish their own righteousness and did not submit to God's righteousness.*

Psalm 119:142 *Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness*

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.*

- In the Bible, righteousness does not begin with human behavior.
  - It begins with who God is.
- God does not measure Himself by a standard outside of Himself.
  - He *is* the standard.
- God is righteous because His nature is righteous.
  - He does what is right because He is right.
- Human ideas of goodness change.
  - God does not change.

Righteousness Starts With God, Not Man

Regardless of God's display of righteousness, mankind, throughout history has sought to establish himself as the measure of all things. Why?

Human Righteousness Tries to Earn God's Favor

Paul warns against trying to create one's own righteousness.

> *"They sought to establish their own righteousness, and did not submit to God's righteousness."* **(Rom 10:3 NET)**

This is the heart of the difference.

Human righteousness says:

"I can make myself right."

God's righteousness says:

"You cannot make yourself right, but I will make you right through Christ."

Coming Soon… Lesson 7
How Grace Dismantles Fear-Based Systems in the New Testament

Apostolic Pattern: From System to Life

Every New Testament covenantal concept shift follows this pattern:
- ➢ from law to Life
- ➢ from fear to Faith
- ➢ from performance to Promise
- ➢ from system to Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:17 *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and <u>where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom</u>."*
Romans 8:15 *"For <u>you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear,</u> but <u>you received the Spirit of adoption</u>."*

Lesson Abstract
- ➢ Fear builds systems to protect cultural identity.
- ➢ Grace reveals identity so systems are no longer needed.

> Fear asks: *Am I safe?*
> Grace answers: *You are mine.*

- ➢ And once that is settled,
- ➢ righteousness no longer needs to be managed.

How Grace Dismantles Fear-Based Systems in the New Testament

1. Fear Builds Systems. Grace Exposes Them.

Fear always asks:
How do I protect myself?
How do I stay accepted?

Grace asks something else:
Who is God, and can He be trusted?

Romans 8:15

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption."

Fear produces slavery.
Grace produces sonship.

Systems need fear to survive.
Grace removes the fear that systems depend on.

2. Grace Removes the Need for Control

Fear-based systems work by control:

rules
penalties
social pressure

Grace replaces control with relationship.

Galatians 4:4–7

"So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son, then you are also an heir through God."

A slave needs rules to survive.
A son lives from belonging.

Once belonging is secure, control loses its power.

3. Grace Shifts Obedience From Fear to Love

Fear-based obedience asks:
What happens if I fail?

Grace-based obedience asks:
How do I honor the one who loves me?

1 John 4:18

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear."

Fear cannot coexist with love.
When love rules, systems collapse.

4. Grace Dismantles Religious Hierarchies

Fear-based systems require mediators:

experts
gatekeepers

elites

Grace gives direct access to God.

Hebrews 4:16

"Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help."

Confidence replaces dependence on religious authority structures.

This is why grace always threatens institutional control.

5. Grace Ends the Need for Performance Identity

Fear-based systems define worth by performance.

Grace defines identity by Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–9

"For by grace you are saved through faith… it is the gift of God; it is not from works."

If righteousness is a gift,
there is nothing left to earn.

Systems collapse when comparison loses meaning.

6. Grace Replaces External Rules With Internal Transformation

Fear systems manage behavior.
Grace changes the heart.

Titus 2:11–12

"For the grace of God has appeared… training us to reject godless ways."

Grace teaches.
Law demands.

Fear controls from the outside.
Grace forms from the inside.

7. Grace Breaks Social Contracts Inside the Church

Social contracts say:

behave and belong
conform and be accepted

Grace says:

belong, therefore grow

Romans 15:7

"Receive one another, just as Christ also received you."

Christ did not receive us after improvement.
He received us before it.

This destroys transactional righteousness.

8. Grace Destroys the Economy of Shame

Fear-based systems need shame to function.

Grace absorbs shame.

Hebrews 12:2

"He endured the cross, disregarding its shame."

When shame is removed,
fear loses its leverage.

9. Grace Makes the Law Obsolete as a Control System

The Law exposed sin.
Grace removes condemnation.

Romans 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Without condemnation:

fear loses urgency
systems lose authority
trust becomes possible

10. Why Grace Is So Threatening

Grace cannot be controlled.
It cannot be measured.
It cannot be monopolized.

Galatians 5:1

"For freedom Christ has set us free."

Freedom is dangerous to systems.
But it is essential for life.

11. Apostolic Pattern: From System to Life

Every New Testament shift follows this pattern:
>from law to life
>from fear to faith

from performance to promise

from system to Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:17 *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom."*

Final Summary

Fear builds systems to protect identity.

Grace reveals identity so systems are no longer needed.

Fear asks: *Am I safe?*

Grace answers: *You are mine.*

And once that is settled,

righteousness no longer needs to be managed.