

# Bible Study

Aug. 2, 2022

## What Difference Does the Gift of Righteousness Make?

### I. Announcements:

No Devotion on Thursday as Duke & I Will Be Traveling

### II. Introduction:

The Greek word that we translate as Gospel is “yoo-anghel-eed-zo” which means “good news.” In its verb form, it is the same Greek word used in the angels Christmas message to shepherds outside of Bethlehem when he said, *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings, good news or glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”*

The good news is indeed good because, through every generation from Adam to Joseph and Mary, there had been very little good news. Inside the Garden of Eden when Adam ate the forbidden fruit, all of mankind had been born under divine condemnation, under bondage to the sin nature which was their Adamic heritage, and subject to the harsh rule of Satan, Law, sin, judgment, condemnation, death and Hell. Even among God’s chosen people, who placed their confidence in their obedience to the Law, the burden was far, far too much. As Paul wrote in Rom. 3, “There is none good, no not one.” Even the Law, not just Ten Commandments but the 630 commandments of the Old Testament, were not a path to life. The Apostle Paul in 2 Cor. 3 declared the Law itself to be a “ministry of condemnation” and a “ministry of death.” Peter himself declared to the other apostles in Acts 10:15 that the God’s Law was “a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were ever able to bear.” No man, even among God’s chosen people, was able to behave well enough to earn God’s favor and acceptance except the very few that, against all odds, found the path of faith.

The very, very few who found acceptance with God found that acceptance not in their behavior, not in the commandments that they observed or failed to observe, but in faith. Abel was found righteous before God not by Law but by faith. Noah was found righteous before God not by Law but by faith. Even Lot, who fathered children through incest with his two daughters, was found

righteous before God because of His faith. ((2 Peter 2:7) Abraham, says Gen. 15:6, “believed God (in regard to God giving him a son) and God counted it to him as righteousness.”

The Good News of the Gospel then was that God was sending His own Son, a man born outside of the lineage and judgment of Adam, to give His own life as ransom for you and for me. The benefit of that ransom was that we were set free from the guilt and condemnation of Adam’s sin and could then choose life by receiving the gift of God’s own righteousness. We could, in effect, claim the blood of Christ as payment for our guilt and sin, respond to God’s offer of eternal life and legal adoption, and live forever in the unending wealth of His inheritance.

That is the heart of the Gospel. That is very, very good news.

- III. The issue facing most of us is that coming out of slavery to sin and death into the freedom and Sonship of the Gospel is a spiritual change of gargantuan, massive proportions. And two facts war against us. First, that change is almost entirely invisible. And second, the guides that we trust in religious circles are often very good at bringing lost souls to the altar but they themselves limit the goodness of God and have no idea how to guide you in the newness of eternal life. They can guide you to the door of eternal life, but they refuse to believe in the fullness of grace and forgiveness which is our inheritance.

What “being saved” means is that God has forgiven all of your sins (past, present and future), blotting them out of His memory. Then, as added insurance, He has drawn from the material substance of His own righteousness and clothed you eternally in the light and glory of that golden light.

Heb. 10 — although the second half contains some of the most difficult verses in the New Testament — affirms our eternal security four times in the first 18 verses.

*Heb. 10:10 — “We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

*Heb. 10:12-13 — “When this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.”*

*Heb. 10:14 — “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”*

**Heb. 10:15-17** — *“The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this, (saying)... ‘Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.’”*

**IV** And so we are left with this truth: if we have received the forgiveness and adoption which Christ died to offer us, then how does that change these things:

**A. The Ten Commandments?**

**Rom. 10:4** — *“For Christ is the end, the fulfillment, the satisfaction, the culmination of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”*

**Rom. 7:4** — *“So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”*

**Gal. 2:19** — *“For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.”*

**Rom. 4:15** — *“Where there is no law there is no transgression, no sin, no violation, no rebellion.”*

**B. Sin?**

**1. Sin in the Old Testament** — a violation of the law that resulted in judgment, condemnation, death and Hell.

**2. Sin in the New Testament** — an act of unbelief, falling short (hamartia) of the new nature, the new righteousness which God has granted us. When we sin as believers, God may allow us to suffer the consequences of those sins, but there is no eternal consequence, no divine condemnation.

**C. Conviction?**

**Heb. 10:1-2** — *“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the [a]form of those things itself, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually every year, make those who approach perfect. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?”*

**John 16:8** — *“When he (The Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

**D. Confession?**

**James 5:16 — “Confess (acknowledge openly and joyfully) your sins (failures, deviations) to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

**V. Summary**

**Picasso at Four Years Old — When Do You Forgive This Child?**

**Thank you for downloading these notes!**

**Please remember our upcoming Asia trip  
in your prayers and giving.**