

H

Sermon title: **Christ our Righteousness**

Scripture: **Romans 3:22-25**

Opening Hymn: **Turn Your Eyes on Jesus**(290)

Closing Hymn: **I will follow thee** (623)

Dates Given: 10/11/2025 Mqt.

Christ Our Righteousness

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Christ Our Righteousness

CHRIST OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Arthur G. Daniells

Brief Background

- Prior to the 1888 Conference, two gentlemen (Alphozo “A. T.” Jones & E. J. Waggoner) began studying separately under the direction of the Holy Spirit about Christ and His plan of Salvation.
- Prior to the conference, they met each other and together honed their message.
- Both spoke at the 1888 conference, and their message is now known as **Righteous By Faith**.

[Read slide]

Christ Our Righteousness

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Brief Background

- This message of **Righteous By Faith** totally divided the 1888 Conference.
- This division became so severe that it prevented the Lord from returning after the conference because He could not find enough people ready to carry this message to a dying world.
- This message was also identified by Ellen White as **“the Third Angel’s message in verity.”**

[Read slide]

- This is God’s last message which we, the Seventh-Day Adventist church, have been called to give to a dying world.

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Christ Our Righteousness

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

Arthur G. Daniells

Foreword (Excerpts)

“At a meeting of the members of the Ministerial Association Advisory Council, held in Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 22, 1924, it was voted that Elder Daniells [retired General Conference President] be asked to arrange for a compilation of the writings of Mrs. E. G. White on the subject of Justification by Faith.”

Christ Our Righteousness

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Arthur G. Daniells

Foreword (Excerpts)

“In harmony with the primary purpose of providing a ‘compilation of the writings of Mrs. E. G. White on the subject,’ exhaustive research was made through all the writings of the Spirit of prophecy as held in trust by us as a people, in bound volumes and also in printed articles appearing in the files of our denominational papers, covering a period of twenty-five years from 1887 to 1912.” (A. G. Daniels)

Christ Our Righteousness

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

Arthur G. Daniells

Foreword (Excerpts)

“So vast was the field of study opened up, so marvelous and illuminating the hidden gems of truth which came to light, that I became amazed and awed at the solemn obligation resting upon me, of rescuing these gems from their obscurity, and placing them, in a cluster of brilliancy and beauty, where they would win rightful recognition and acceptance in the glorious finishing of the work entrusted to the remnant church.”

[Read slide]

- All the signs point to the soon beginning of the great troubles that will precede the Lord's second coming.
- Therefore, we need to be sure that we understand this message and that is why I'm here today.
- **All are called to enter the battle and hasten the Lord's return!**
- **Consider**

[Next]

Why Study Christ Our Righteousness

- The message of Christ our righteousness is the single most important topic in the church. It is absolutely necessary and urgent that we understand it so we can “stand” in these last days.
- Again, note that it was the message by Jones and Waggoner in 1888 (called “*the three angel’s message in verity*” by Ellen White.)
- **Failure to understand this message and reflect it in our character can cost us heaven!** This is Christ’s warning to us the Seventh-Day Adventist Church as written in the Laodicean message!

[Next]

[Next]

[Next]

[Read last bullet again]

- We will outline the warning in the Laodicean message here only briefly. I will cover it in detail in a later message.

Christ Our Righteousness¹

Chapter 1

“Christ our righteousness is the one sublime message set forth in the Sacred Scriptures. However, varied the forms and phrases in which this message may be unfolded and presented, yet always, from every point of the circle, the central commanding theme is, Christ our righteousness.”

¹Taken from Christ our Righteousness by A. G. Daniels. Gerald E. Greene 2015. Page 15

Christ Our Righteousness

Chapter 1

“Throughout the Sacred Volume, – every phase of truth unfolded, points in some way to **Christ as our righteousness**. But righteousness as a distinct, well-defined subject of vital importance, occupies a large place in the word of God. Its source, its nature, the possibility of its being obtained by sinners, and the conditions upon which it may be secured, are set forth in great clearness in that original, authoritative textbook (the Bible) on righteousness.”

[Read Slide First]

- Let's look at Bible references as to source for this Righteousness.

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture



Source of Righteousness

- "O Lord, righteousness belongs unto Thee"
(Daniel 9:7)
- "The Lord is righteous in all His ways." (Psalm 145:17)
- "Thy righteousness is like the great mountains."
(Psalm 36:6.)

[Next 3 times]

[Next to more on next slide]

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture



Source of Righteousness

- "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness." (Psalm 119:142)
- "The righteous Lord loveth righteousness." (Psalm 11:7)
- "There is no unrighteousness in Him." (Psalm 92:15)

[Next 3 times]

[Next to summary]

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture

Source of Righteousness

Thus, God is the source of all righteousness; it is one of His holy, divine attributes.



[Next]

- Now let's examine the nature of righteousness...

[Next]

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture



Nature of Righteousness

- "That you put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, which waxes corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **put on the new man**, which after God hath been created in **righteousness** and holiness of truth." (Ephesians 4:22-24, R. V.)

[Next]

[Next]

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture



Nature of Righteousness

- "The fruit of the Spirit **is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.**" (Ephesians 5:9)
- "Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." (1 Timothy 6:11)
- "Awake to righteousness, and **sin not.**"
(1 Corinthians 15:34)

[Next]

[Next]

[Next]

[Next]

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture



Nature of Righteousness

- "Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; ... " (Hebrews 1:9)
- "All unrighteousness is sin." 1 John 5:17.

[Next]

[Next]

The message of Christ Our Righteousness as the core theme of Scripture

Nature of Righteousness

Righteousness is thus the antithesis, the direct opposite of iniquity or sin.



[Read slide]

- Let's dig a little deeper into how this impacts our lives.

[Next]

What does this mean in our lives as believers?



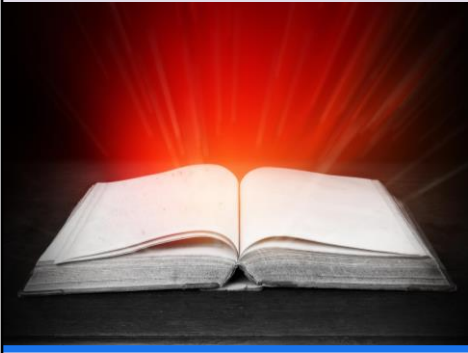
Digging a little deeper:

- What is our personal relation to that righteousness?
- Is righteousness in any degree inherent in human nature?
 - If so, how may it be cultivated and developed?
 - If not, is there any way of obtaining it?
 - If it is obtained, by what means, and when?

[Next 5 times to “...If it is obtained...]

- So, what says the Word?

**The significance of
righteousness as revealed
in the Word of God**

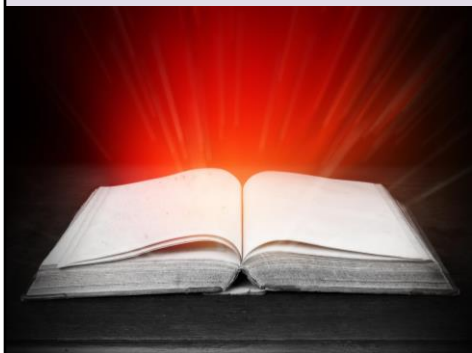


Is Righteousness Inherent In Us?

- “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- “We are carnal, sold under sin.”
(Romans 7:14)
- “There is none righteous, no, not one”
(Romans 3: 10);

Is righteousness inherent in us?
[Next 3 times]

**The significance of
righteousness as revealed
in the Word of God**



Is Righteousness Inherent In Us?

- “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:”
(Romans 7:18)
- “We are filled with all
unrighteousness.” (Romans 1:29).

**Clearly, human nature is filled with
all unrighteousness.**

[Next]

[Next]

- Do you see a pattern? Let me express it this way

[Next]

- Bottom line, there is not a single trace of goodness in us that God has not given us.
- Now let's look at the question if anyone can be righteous

[Next]

Therefore, is it possible for anyone to be righteous?



What do the scriptures say?

- Christ refers to the second son of Adam and speaks of him as “righteous Abel.” (Matt. 23:35).
- Paul declares that Abel "obtained witness that he was righteous." (Hebrews 11:4).
- “The Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation.” (Genesis 7:1).

Is it possible for anyone to be righteous?

[Next 3 times]

[Next for more comments]

Therefore, is it possible for anyone to be righteous?



What do the scriptures say?

- "Noah was **a just man and perfect** in his generations..." (Genesis 6:9).
- "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for **righteousness**." (Romans 4:3)
- "And delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked (for that **righteous** man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his **righteous** soul from day to day with their lawless deeds)."
(2 Peter 2:7, 8, R. V.)

[Next 3 times]

[Next for more comments]

Therefore, is it possible for anyone to be righteous?



What do the scriptures say?

- "Of Zacharias and Elisabeth, living just before the birth of Christ, it is said: "They were both **righteous** before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." (Luke 1:6).
- The apostle Paul declares that the Gentiles to whom he had preached the gospel had "attained to **righteousness**." (Rom. 9:30; 6:17-22).

[Next 2 times]

- "But in this same word we find the good, glad news that God has provided a way by which we may be cleansed from our unrighteousness and be clothed and filled with His perfect righteousness. We find that this provision was made and revealed to Adam as soon as he fell from his high and holy estate. This merciful provision has been understood and laid hold of by fallen, unrighteous men and women from the very beginning of the fierce, unequal conflict with sin. This we learn from the following testimonies recorded in the Scriptures "

Therefore, is it possible for anyone to be righteous?



What do you say?

[Pause]

- So clearly the Bible has designated some righteous.
- However, that answer brings up more questions.

[Next]

Why were these people declared righteous?



Possible answers:

- Was it because the times and conditions in which these men and women lived were favorable to righteousness?
- Was it due to the special and superior qualities inherent in those who reached the high tablelands of godliness?
- All the records of the times and of individuals give a negative answer. They were people with natures like our own in an evil environment like our day.

Why were these people declared Righteous?

[Next]

[Next]

[Next]

- They were people with natures like our own in an evil environment like our day.
- Now to the **most important question**: How are we made righteous?

[Next]

Therefore, by what means are we made righteous?



What do the scriptures say?

Not by works

- "20 By the deeds of the law [works] there shall no flesh be justified [accounted righteous] in His sight: for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" (Romans 3:20)

But by faith:

- 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law [works of the law] is manifested, being witnessed [approved, accepted] by the law and the prophets;
22 even the righteousness of God which is by **faith** of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that **believe.**" (Romans 3:21-22).

Therefore, by what means are we made righteous? [Next]

- In the first part of this statement, the apostle shows the position which the law takes in the nature of justification. "By the law is the knowledge of sin." The *knowledge* of sin; not the *deliverance* from sin. The law points out sin. In so doing it declares the whole world to be guilty before God. (Romans 3) But the law cannot deliver from sin. No effort of the sinner to obey the law can cancel his guilt or bring to him the righteousness of God. [Next]
- No! Paul clearly states that **righteousness is by faith!**
- Now let's examine other scriptural evidence.

[Next]

Therefore, by what means are we made righteous?



What do the scriptures say?

Not by works

- “²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

But by faith:

- ²⁴ being justified freely by His **grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate **His righteousness**, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed." (Romans 3:24-25).

[Read slide then below]

- Again, not by works.

[Next]

- “It is through faith in the blood of Christ that all the sins of the believer are canceled and the righteousness of God is put in their place to the believer's account. O, what a marvelous transaction! What a manifestation of divine love and grace. Here is a man born in sin. As Paul says, he is “filled with all unrighteousness”. His inheritance of evil is the worst imaginable. His environment is at the lowest depths known to the wicked. In some way the love of God shining from the cross of Calvary reaches that man's heart.”

[Next for more comments]

Therefore, by what means are we made righteous?



What do the scriptures say?

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- “He yields, repents, confesses, and by faith claims Christ as his Savior. The instant that is done, he is accepted as a child of God. His sins are all forgiven, his guilt is canceled, he is accounted righteous, and stands approved, justified, before the divine law. And this amazing, miraculous change may take place in one short hour. **This is righteousness by faith.**”

[Read this again]

[Next and stop] { Alert: Read notes before pressing Next}

An example from the life of Abraham (Romans 4:1-4)

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?

Not Works

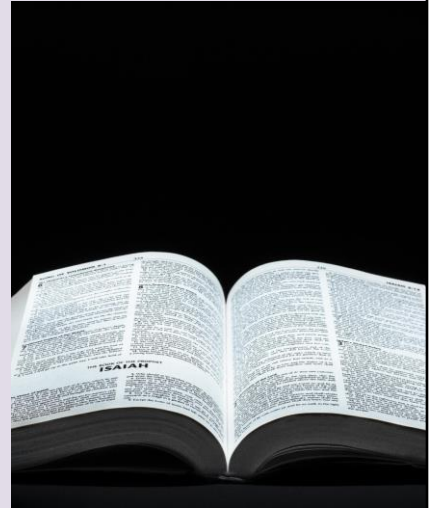
² For if Abraham was justified by **works**, he has *something* to boast about, but **not** before God.

But Faith

³ For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**"

Not Works

⁴ Now to him who **works**, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.



[Read below first]

- Having made these clear, forceful statements as to the way of being made righteous, the apostle then illustrates the truth declared by a concrete case. He takes the experience of Abraham as an example.

[Next vs 1]

[Next vs 2]

[Next vs 3]

[Next vs 4]

[Next for more comments]

An example from the life of Abraham (Romans 4:1-4)

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?

Not Works

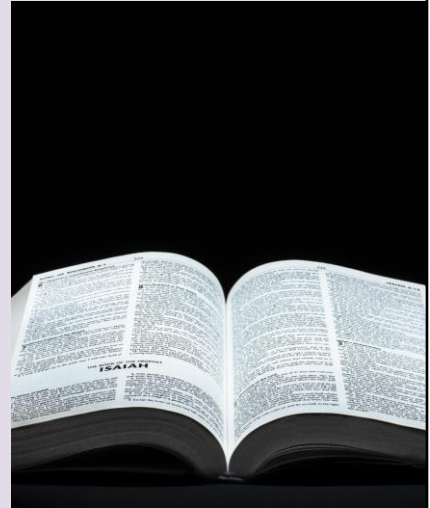
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Not Works

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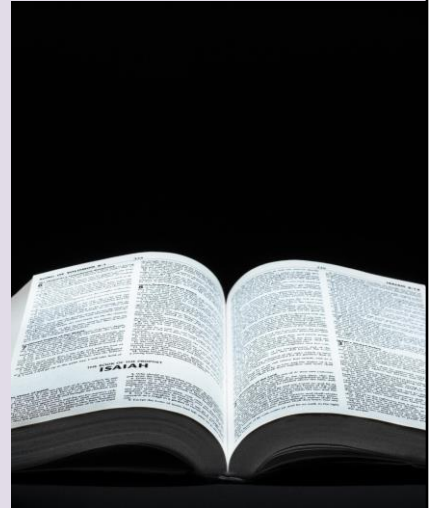


- What kindness! What great compassion! The Lord, who is "righteousness in all His ways," offers His own perfect righteousness to any and every poor, weak, helpless, hopeless sinner who will believe what He says. Reading again: *"To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him, his faith is counted for righteousness."*

[Next]

An example from the life of Abraham (Romans 4:21-25)

- ²¹ And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”
- ²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.



[Read below first]

- So important, so fundamental is this way of righteousness that the apostle goes on through this entire chapter to restate and repeat and press home to all what he has made so clear in few words. Here are some of his statements:

[Next vs 21-22]

- Fully convinced = faith

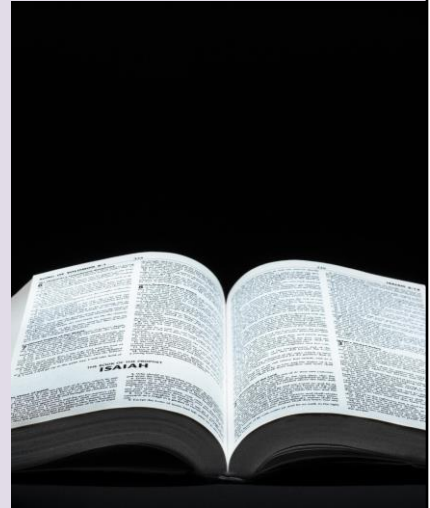
[Next vs 23]

- This clear-cut, positive statement reveals to every lost soul for all time the only way from sin and guilt and condemnation to righteousness and deliverance from condemnation and death.

[Next for more comments]

An example from the life of Abraham (Romans 4:21-25)

- ²¹ And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore “it was accounted to him for **righteousness.**”
- ²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ **who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.**



[Slow with emphasis]

- The three words “righteousness by faith” express the most wonderful transaction in this material world which the human intellect can grasp. They express the greatest gift that God, in His infinite plenitude, could bestow upon mankind. The great fact expressed by this phrase of three words, has been studied, expounded, and rejoiced in by millions during past ages, and it is still the theme of the most sublime interest and importance to the human family. With this agree all the other statements of the Scriptures regarding this great problem of being made righteous.

Warning

Many who think that their salvation
is secure will miss heaven!



Reasons:

- Seeking salvation by works of the law
- Comfortable/complacent (Laodicea)

- This is a very serious warning

[Next]

- I see two main reasons why members of the SDA church might miss heaven

[Next]

[Next]

- Let's look first at various warnings itself and then at the reasons for them.

Many who think that their salvation is secure will miss heaven!



Warning

Christ's Warning:

- “Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide** is the gate and **broad** is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

¹⁴ Because **narrow** is the gate and **difficult** is the way which leads to life, and there are **few** who find it.

(Matthew 7:13-14)

[Next]

[Read Slide]

What does “many” mean. What does “few” mean? How about “broad” versus “narrow” Here is an example from the book of Daniel.

[Next]

Many who think that their
salvation is secure will miss
heaven!



Warning

“¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold...⁵ *That* at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; ⁶ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” (Daniel 3:1, 5-6)

[Next]

[Read Slide]

- The 8,000 or so Hebrew captives brought to Babylon were in training as were Daniel and his three friends. Logically, if Daniel's friends were invited, we can assume most of the 8000 would also have been invited to this celebration.
- So, question? How many were left standing? **[Pause]**
- So, under the death decree, only 3 of 8,000 were willing to remain standing for their God. (About 0.04 percent). **[Pause]**

[Next for more comments]

Many who think that their
salvation is secure will miss
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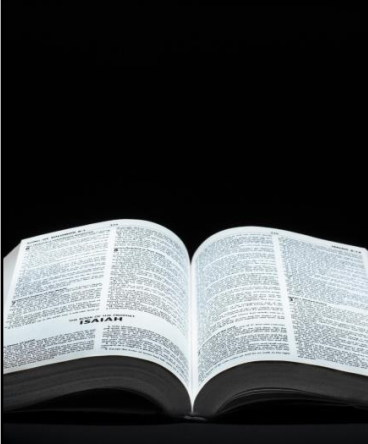


Warning

“¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold...⁵ *That* at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; ⁶ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” (Daniel 3:1, 5-6)

- We don't quite know how to measure what **many** and **few** mean but given the significance given this warning by Christ, we can assume that few might be handfuls out of a crowd.
- Here is a frightening example from the book of Exodus.

Many who think that their
salvation is secure will miss
heaven!



Warning

A historical warning from Exodus:

- “An estimated 500,000 adults came out of Egypt plus women and children.
- How many families of those remained faithful?
- Four: Moses, Aaron, Josuah & Caleb.
- Question: What was the environment and culture in Egypt during their sojourn?

[Next] [Read Slide]

[Next] [Read Slide]

[Next]

[Pause]

[Next]

- So? Why? What conditions were they leaving in Egypt?)
 - An evil pagan culture that worshiped idols.
 - Is our society very different? Our idols are money, power, fame, job, home, fancy car...)
 - Evil abounds

[Brief pause]

- Let's turn now to the problem of a works mentality taught by non-Christian religions & most Christian denominations.

Many who think that their salvation is secure will miss heaven!

Warning

Seeking Salvation by Works

- “⁸ For by **grace** are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; ⁹ **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**”
- Think about it! We all know this scripture; how could we possibly fail here? Consider...



[Next]

[Next]

- Satan is very clever and frequently slips into this mindset.
- A works mindset might manifest itself in several ways:
 1. When we think we must do more good deeds to earn heaven.
 2. When we try to do things in our own strength. “You’re busy Lord, I’ve got this.”
 3. When we think we must do something good to offset some sin in our lives before we ask forgiveness.
 4. When we choose to do our own thing though we know it’s not the Lord’s will (**open rebellion**).
- There are more possibilities, but let’s look at an example:

Warning

A Works of the Law Example from Israel in Christ's Day



- ³¹ Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.
- ³² Why? Because *they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law.* For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.
- ³³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and *seeking to establish their own righteousness,* have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (Romans 9:31-33)

[Read below first]

- How strange and how sad that this simple, beautiful way of righteousness seems so hard for the natural, carnal heart to find and accept! It was a great sorrow to Paul that Israel, his kinsmen according to the flesh, missed the way so fatally.

[Next]

Many who think that their salvation is secure will miss heaven!



Warning

Laodicea/Comfortable

Letter to the Church of Laodicea:

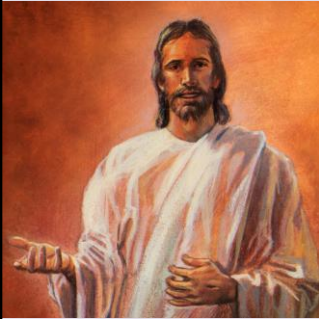
- ¹⁵ “I know your works, that you are **neither cold nor hot**. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and **do not know** that you are **wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked**.”

- I will discuss the letter to the Laodiceans in a later message but let's just grab one phrase out of the letter

[Next; read highlighted only] DO NOT KNOW.

- **This is probably one of the most frightening words in the Bible. Do I know: Do I really know? Am I ready?**
- So, here is the key here is to fully understand Righteousness by Faith:
 - We can stand in the judgement only when we have received the righteous by Christ. This happens when we confess our sins, repent, and accept by faith Christ's atoning sacrifice!
- ***Any questions on this point?***

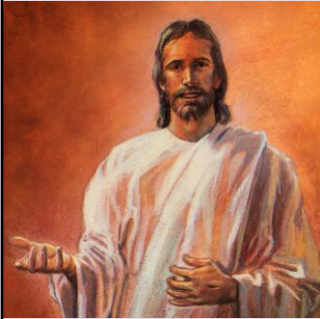
Final Thoughts from the Apostle Paul



- “⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ ...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

[Read highlighted only and repeat verse 9]

Final Thoughts from A. G. Daniels



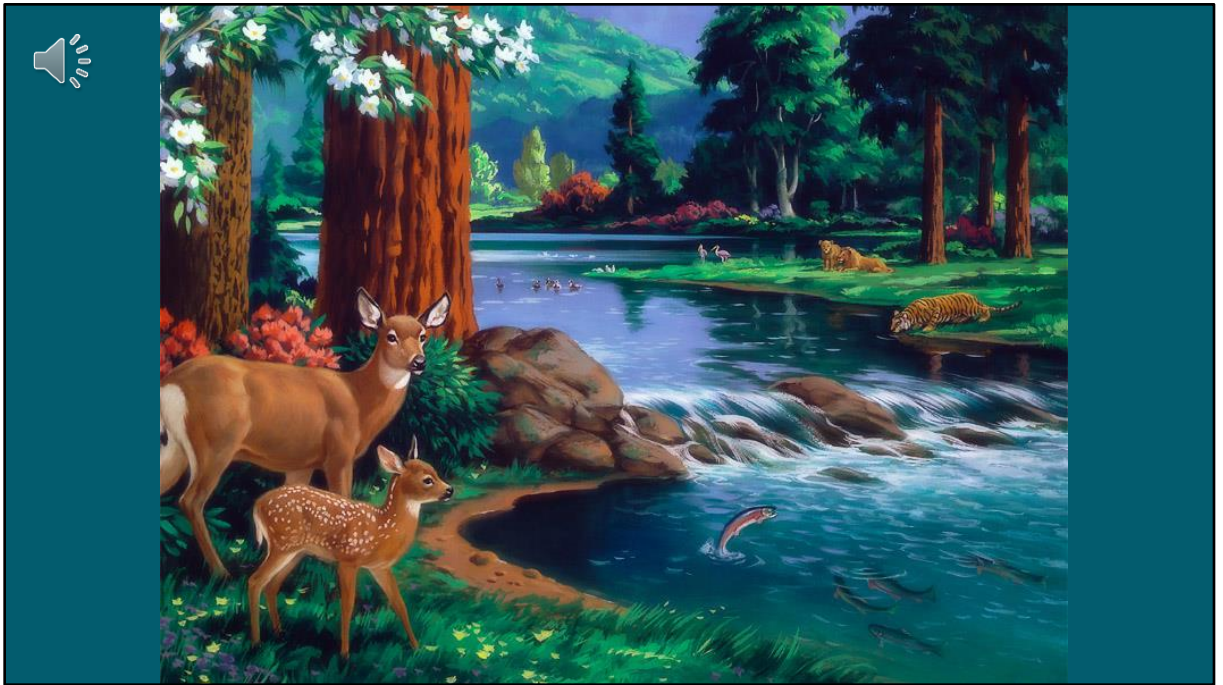
- "Righteousness by faith" is not a theory. People may hold a theory about it, and at the same time be "ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness." "Righteousness by faith" is a transaction, an experience. It is a submitting unto "the righteousness of God." It is a change of standing before God and His law. It is a regeneration, a new birth. Without this change there can be no hope for the sinner, for he will remain under the condemnation of God's changeless, holy law; its terrible penalty will still hang over his head.

Final Thoughts from Ellen White

- "This name is hallowed by the angels of heaven, by the inhabitants of unfallen worlds. When you pray, 'Hallowed be Thy name,' you ask that it may be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. God has acknowledged you before men and angels as His child; pray that you may do no dishonor to the 'worthy name by which ye are called.' God sends you into the world as His representatives. In every act of life, you are to make manifest the name of God. This petition calls upon you to possess His character. You cannot hallow His name, you cannot represent Him to the world, unless in life and character you represent the very life and character of God. This you can do only through the acceptance of the grace and righteousness of Christ."

(Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, " P.158.)

[Read Slide]



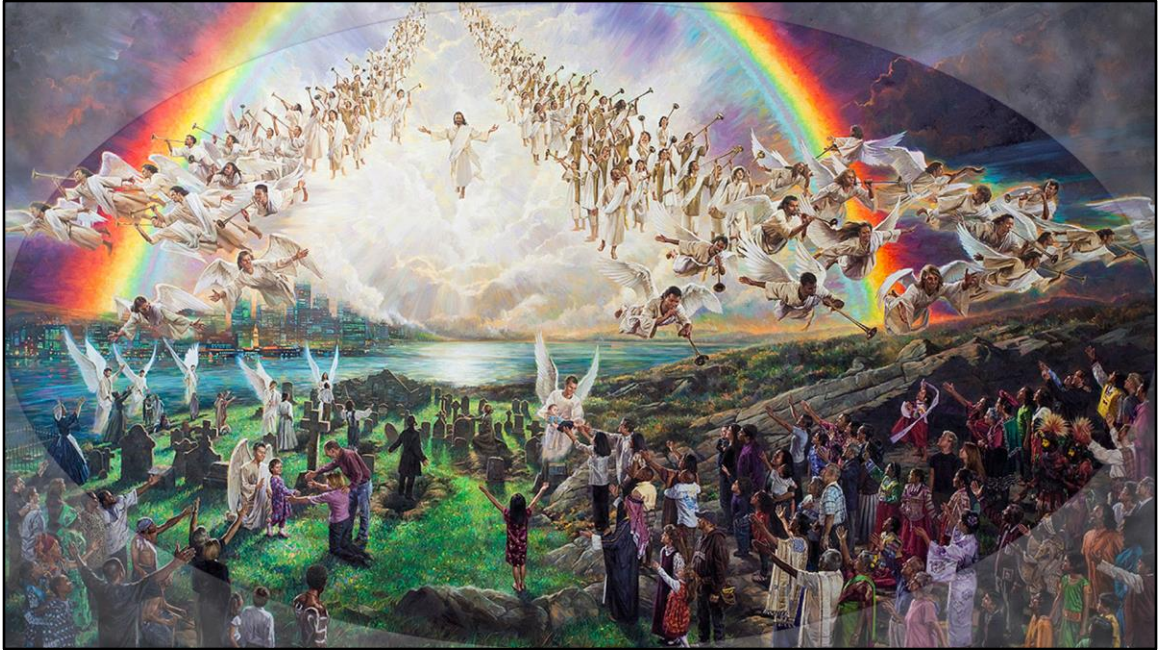
“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Cor. 2:9)



“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.**”

(Revelation 21:3-4)

So, is heaven worth it?



¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

[Have pianist start playing #623 quietly]

I Will Follow Thee

(Hymn 623)

1

I will follow Thee, my Savior,
Wheresoe'er my lot may be.
Where thou goest I will follow;
Yes, my Lord, I'll follow Thee.

Refrain

I will follow Thee, my Savior,
Thou didst shed Thy blood for me;
And though all men should forsake Thee;
By Thy grace I'll follow Thee.



[Read below before the song]

- I want you to think about the words as we sing so let's read them before we sing.

I Will Follow Thee

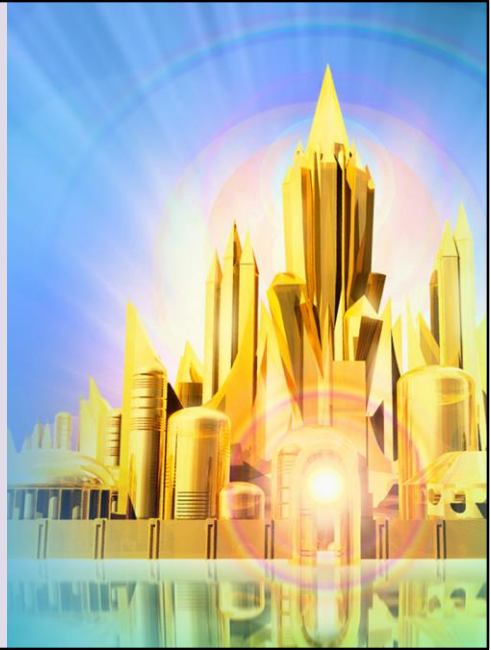
(Hymn 623)

2

Though the road be rough and thorny,
Trackless as the foaming sea,
Thou hast trod this way before me,
And I'll gladly follow Thee.

3

Though I meet with tribulations,
Sorely tempted though I be;
I remember Thou wast tempted,
And rejoice to follow Thee.



I Will Follow Thee

(Hymn 623)

4

Though Thou leadest me through affliction,
Poor, forsaken though I be;
Thou wast destitute, afflicted,
And I only follow Thee.

5

Though to Jordan's rolling billows,
Cold and deep, Thou leadest me,
Thou hast crossed the waves before me,
And I still will follow Thee.



- Let's stand and sing our closing song, #623.



[* Leave this slide open during the closing song ***]**

Now may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Christ Our Righteousness

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