

20230423 Life through the righteousness of God (Living by faith)

Romans 1:8-17

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you

10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Today's subject: The righteousness of God

Romans 1:17

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Three things this morning

- What is the gospel?

- What is the righteousness of God? Its character. Its necessity. And its effect.
- What does it mean to us?

1. What is the gospel?

Romans 2:13-16

13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.

15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my **gospel** declares.

The gospel is God's plan for humanity:

- that was perceived in the mind of God before the foundation of the world,
- and that is being unfolded in the life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God by the power of God's Spirit in human history,
- and that will be completed in God's time for eternity for the glory of God.

2. What is the righteousness of God

Romans 1:17

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

It is a righteousness that God has prepared for humanity.

17 **God's way of putting people right** shows up in the acts of faith, confirming what Scripture has said all along: "The person in right standing before God by trusting him really lives." (MSG)

17 This Good News tells us **how God makes us right in his sight**. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." (NLT)

1. The character of the righteousness of God – Free gift of God

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God** —
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life**.

Two reasons it's free.

One. It's too precious for us to pay. No one can pay the price.

Two. Because God so loves us. He is the God of giving. That's His heart. God is good to us all the time. And all the time, He is good!

2. The necessity of the righteousness of God – we can't earn it.

Romans 3:23

23 for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 64:6

6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous acts are like filthy rags**; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

3. The effect of the righteousness of God – the right to be a child of God

John 1:12

12 Yet to all who did receive him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose.