THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
TEXT: **DEUT. 32:4** (and selected others)

DEFINITION:

"Righteousness" (or Justice) = a legal term that describes a conformity to a standard.

Righteousness is an extension of holiness, and actually describes holiness in action.

Often called "transitive holiness."

God's treatment of His creatures conforms perfectly to the holiness (purity) of His nature.

God's righteousness reveals Him to be sinless and always right in His relationship to created beings (angels and mankind).

God's righteousness (justice) is an extended expression of His holiness.

NOTE: Righteousness is tied to holiness in the following passages of Scripture:

1) Ps. 145:17 - "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all his works."

2) Lk. 1:75 - Zacharias prayed that he might serve God in "holiness and righteousness"

3) Mk. 6:20 - "John the Baptist had a reputation of being "a just man and holy."

4) Acts 3:14 - Jesus is called "the Holy One and the Just."

   A name for God (and particularly Jesus Christ) is the "Just One" cp. Acts 3:14, 7:52, 22:14.

5) Rom. 7:12 - God's Word (O.T. Law) is said to be "holy and just."

6) I Thess. 2:10 - Paul said that he behaved himself "holily and justly"

***IN ALL GOD'S DEALINGS (WHETHER WITH ANGELS OR MANKIND) HE IS RIGHTEOUS!**

5 Demonstrations of God's Righteousness:

A. HIS RIGHTEOUS ACTS IN HUMAN HISTORY (Judges 5:11; I Sam. 12:7)

His choosing of Jacob was righteous (Rom. 9)

His deliverance of Israel was righteous.

His conquest of Canaan was righteous.

His judgment of Israel was righteous.

B. HIS CONDEMNATION OF SIN (Rom. 3:1-8; Ps. 51:4)

C. HIS SACRIFICE OF HIS SON (Rom. 3:25-26; II Cor. 5:21)

Christ's death shows that God is "neither indifferent to sin nor regards it lightly" (Vines, p. 298).

SEE Rom. 8:3 - God "condemned sin in the flesh" of His Son.

"The Just [died] for the unjust" (I Pet. 3:18).

D. HIS GRACIOUS OFFER OF ETERNAL LIFE (Gal. 2:16-17; 3:11, 24)

God could not be righteous and offer us eternal life any other way than by grace.

Cp. Job 9:2, 25:4; Ecc. 7:20.

Is. 53:11 - "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

EX: Those who try to establish their own righteousness (Rom. 10:3)

Because of Christ, God's righteousness is balanced with His mercy, grace, and peace (Ps. 112:4; 116:5; cp. Jer. 9:24).

Ps. 85:10 - "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

E. HIS JUDGMENT

1. Present Judgment - "sowing and reaping" (Gal. 6:7)

2. Future Judgment (see: Romans 2)

   Because He is righteous, His judgment will be:

   a. Righteous (cp. Acts 17:31; v. 2)

   b. Inescapable (v. 3)

   c. Deserved (v. 4, 5)

   d. Universal (v. 6)

   e. According to works (v. 7-10)

   f. Severe (v. 8-9)
   (cp. Heb. 10:30)

   g. Impartial (v. 11)

   h. Fair (v. 12)

      1) God's judgment for believers will be just (Ii Tim. 4:8; I Cor. 3:13-15; II Cor. 5:10)

      2) God's judgment for unbelievers will be just (Rev. 11:18; Rev. 20:11-15)

      3) God's judgment in the Tribulation will be just (Rev. 15:1-4)

      4) God's judgment in the Millennium will be just (Jer. 23:5-6)

CONCLUSION:
Ps. 11:7 - "For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright."

Because our Father is righteous, we must be:

1. Honest in regards to money (Lev. 19:36; Prov. 11:1, 16:11; Col. 4:1)

2. Fair in dealing with people (Dt. 16:18; Ii Sam. 23:3)

3. Sincere in our acts of righteousness (Mt. 6:1ff)

4. Pure in relation to sin (I Cor. 15:34)

5. Truthful in our speech (Eph. 4:24,25)