"ARE YOU REALLY RIGHT WITH GOD?"

(Selected Scriptures)

11/24/02

Introduction:
The average person, who believes in God, thinks he's OK with God.
We must distinguish between:

Positional Righteousness (Justification) which is God's Work **FOR** us by Christ
Romans 3:20-31

Practical Righteousness (Sanctification) which is God's Work **IN** us by Christ
Matthew 5-7

*** Practically speaking: How can you know for sure that you are right with God?**

When you are right with God . . .

1. You will have a daily hunger for God's Word and thirst for God's Presence

2. You will have a weekly anticipation to be with God's people

3. You will have a super sensitivity to all forms of sin

4. You will have a clear conscience

5. Your steps are ordered, your decisions are fruitful, and your slip-ups are immediately mended

6. You will have nothing to hide and nothing to be ashamed of

7. The things of the world lose their luster, and pleasing Christ becomes your #1 focus

8. People are not viewed as objects to be exploited but as precious souls to be ministered unto

9. Doing the impossible becomes possible

10. Your mind has wisdom and your work is fruitful & productive

11. You will have a submissive spirit and respect for authorities God has placed over you

12. You will see God's hand at work in your life as He answers your prayers

How do I get right with God?

- ***Make sure you have been born again*** *1 John 2:29*
- ***Repent of any known sin*** *2 Chronicles 7:14*
- ***Obey the truth you already know*** *John 15:5; 1 John 1:7*
- ***Re-cultivate a daily time with the Lord and a regular fellowship with God's people*** *John 15:5; Hebrews 10:24; Hebrews 3:13*

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The average person, who believes in God, thinks he's OK with God.

We must distinguish between:

Positional Righteousness (Justification) which is God's Work **FOR** us by Christ
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Positional Righteousness (Justification) which is God's Work **FOR** us by Christ

The Wonderful Doctrine of Justification
Justification is that judicial act of God by which He declares the sinner as righteous and treats him as such.

***JUST IF I ED**

JUST ***(as)*** **IF I** ***(had never sinn-)*** **ED"**

Justification refers to man's position in God's sight -- *"justified in His sight"* (Rom. 3:20)

A. Romans 3:20-31 teaches about justification

7 Facts About Justification:

1. Justification is not by works (v. 20)
2. Justification is not new news (v. 21)
3. Justification is available to all who believe (v.22-23)
4. Justification is free - without charge (v. 24a)
5. Justification is only in Jesus Christ (v. 24b-26)
6. Justification strips away all pride (v. 27)
7. Justification is consistent with God's Law (v. 28-31)

B. Other Scriptural teachings regarding justification

1. The basis for our justification is:
   THE DEATH OF CHRIST
2. The means of our justification is:
   OUR UNION WITH CHRIST
3. The source of our justification is:
   THE GRACE OF CHRIST
4. The Appropriation of our justification is:
   OUR FAITH IN CHRIST

5. The Results of our justification are:

OUR <u>BLESSINGS</u> IN CHRIST

a. Justification means:
<u>Peace</u> with God (Rom. 5:1)

b. Justification means:
<u>Pardon</u> from God's wrath (Rom. 5:9)

c. Justification means:
A <u>promise</u> of God's glory (eternity with God) (Rom.8:30; cp. Ti. 3;7)

d. Justification means:
<u>Protection</u> from God's enemies (Rom. 8:33)

6. The <u>evidence</u> of our justification is:
OUR <u>WORKS</u> FOR CHRIST

"Faith alone justifies; but faith that justifies is never alone."

<u>Practical</u> Righteousness (Sanctification) which is God's Work **<u>IN</u>** us by Christ

The Sermon on the Mount describes for us: "the Marks of True Righteousness" (Theme: Mt.5:20)

Someone who is truly righteous. . .

- Has the Beatitude Attitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)
  Of humility, meekness, spiritual hunger, mercy, purity of heart, peace, and a righteousness that often becomes a target for persecution
- Has a distinct Lifestyle (as salt & light) (5:13-16)
- Has an internal righteousness (recognizing that an evil thought is the equivalent of an evil act)
  Anger = Murder (5:21-22)
  Lust = Adultery (5:27-29)
- Has a desire to <u>reconcile</u> with those you offend (5:23-26)
- Keeps his promises (oaths) (5:33-37)
- Doesn't return evil for evil (5:38-42)
- Loves even his/her enemies (5:43-47)
- Doesn't <u>give</u> hypocritically (6:1-4)
- Doesn't <u>pray</u> hypoctrically (6:5-15)
- Doesn't <u>fast</u> hypocritically (6:16-18)
- Seeks to lay up treasure in Heaven, rather than on Earth (6:19-24)
- Trust's God to provide one's daily needs (6:25-34)
- Judges himself before judging others (7:1-5)
- Asks, seeks, & knocks on God's door in Prayer (7:7-11)
- Practices the Golden Rule (7:12)
- Doesn't follow the crowd to destruction (7:13-14)
- Produces good fruit (7:15-20)
- Does the will of God obediently (7:21-29)

*** Practically speaking: How can you <u>know</u> for sure that you are right with God?**

When you are right with God . . .

1. You will have a daily hunger for God's <u>Word</u> and thirst for God's <u>Presence</u>

David loved God and His Word: Psalms 119:97 - O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

--Spending an hour in prayer is no chore or bore
Luke 10:39-42 – Example: Mary

"This Book will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from this Book"

2. You will have a weekly anticipation to be with <u>God's people</u>

--Can't wait to be in the local church
Acts 2:44-47 - And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

3. You will have a <u>super sensitivity</u> to all forms of <u>sin</u>

--Any evil deeply bothers you
Psalms 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil

Doing evil becomes repugnant

--EX: Joseph and Potiphar's wife
Genesis 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

4. You will have a <u>clear conscience</u>

--A good night of rest
Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

--No paranoia or jitters around other people
Proverbs 28:1 - The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

5. Your <u>steps</u> are ordered, your <u>decisions</u> are fruitful, and your <u>slip-ups</u> are immediately mended

Psalm 37:23-24 - The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

6. You will have nothing to <u>hide</u> and nothing to be <u>ashamed</u> of

--Not like Adam after the Fall
2 Corinthians 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Philippians 1:20 - According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

7. The things of the world lose their luster, and pleasing Christ becomes your #1 focus

Philippians 1:21 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

8. People are not viewed as objects to be exploited but as precious souls to be ministered unto

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

1 Timothy 5:2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

9. Doing the impossible becomes possible

--EX: David and Goliath
I Sam.17:44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

10. Your mind has wisdom and your work is fruitful & productive

Proverbs 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
Proverbs 3:32 For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

--Solomon's success
Psalms 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Proverbs 10:16 The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.
Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

11. You will have a submissive spirit and respect for authorities God has placed over you

Ephesians 5:21-22 - Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

12. You will see God's hand at work in your life as He answers your prayers

Psalm 34:15 - The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.
Psalm 34:17 - The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
Proverbs 15:29 - The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.
James 5:16 - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
1 Peter 3:12 - For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

How do I get right with God?

Make sure you have been born again

1 John 2:29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Repent of any known sin

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Obey the truth you already know

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Re-cultivate a daily time with the Lord and a regular fellowship with God's people

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.