

**Title:** The Righteousness of God  
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## Introduction

Definition: 'Righteousness' is right standing or right relationship with God; being made right; uprightness. Righteousness isn't always a felt need, but it is a great need.  
E.g. Islam – the 'Scales of Justice'

### Romans 1:16-17 ESV

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- Not love, grace, or mercy.
- Luther's take on this...

## Different kinds of righteousness

There are only three kinds of righteousness and everyone falls into one of these three categories.

### Romans 1:18

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

### Romans 3:23

<sup>23</sup> ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- Everyone starts in unrighteousness.

### Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector."<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

## Self-righteousness

- We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
- We can no more be righteous apart from God than a woman can be pregnant apart from a man.

### Romans 3:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.<sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

## A righteousness that exceeds

### Matthew 5:6 NIV

<sup>33</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

### **Matthew 5:20 ESV**

<sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **Matthew 6:33 ESV**

<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

### **God's righteousness**

#### **Romans 1:16-17 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, a just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

### **The ungodly made righteous**

#### **Romans 4:4-5 NKJV**

<sup>4</sup> Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. <sup>5</sup> But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.

#### **II Corinthians 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Three kinds of righteousness:**

1. Unrighteousness = lack of righteousness.
2. Self-righteousness = righteousness achieved.
3. God righteousness = righteousness received.