

The Righteous Will Live by Faith

Romans 1:8–17

Romans 1:8–17 (CSB)

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith is being reported in all the world. God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in telling the good news about his Son—that I constantly mention you, always asking in my prayers that if it is somehow in God’s will, I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I want very much to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, to be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.

Now I don’t want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I often planned to come to you (but was prevented until now) in order that I might have a fruitful ministry among you, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles. I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

A righteous God makes a righteous people for His namesake.

Verse 17 is the lens for the whole passage — and the whole book of Romans.

Romans 1:17 (CSB)

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Righteousness is not earned; it is a gift from God, offered by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB)

He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

In Christ, we actually become the righteousness of God.

Acts 9:18–20 (CSB)

At once something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul was with the disciples in Damascus for some time. Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: “He is the Son of God.”

v. 16 — No shame in the gospel: Paul isn’t worried about what the gospel says about him and his need to be saved.

Philippians 3:7–9 (CSB)

But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.

The question Romans 1 begs you to answer: Have you been made right with God?

The cross tells the worst thing about us — and the best: we become the righteousness of God.

The righteous will — and do — LIVE by faith.

Imagine if God's righteousness shaped Rivertree, our families, our city — the news of that kind of faith would be reported all over the world.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did God say to you through His Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
2. Spend some time talking about the righteousness of God. Read some of the following Scriptures for encouragement: Romans 1:17, 2 Cor 5:21, Psalm 11, Psalm 97:2, 1 John 1:9, Psalm 23:3.
3. What are some ways we try to earn or prove our right standing with God and with others?
4. How does/should the declaration of God's righteousness over our lives change the way we live by faith?
5. What would change about your life if you lived from God's righteousness instead of trying to earn God's righteousness?
6. How can you mutually encourage and strengthen those in your group tonight? Maybe spend time praying and speaking Scripture specifically about God's righteousness to one another.