

Awake To Righteousness

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

MightyFortressChurch.org

Scripture Meditation

Isaiah 59:17

He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. (NIV)

Ephesians 6:14

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (KJV)

✠ Righteousness is an integral piece of the armor of God. Most Christians know very little about it or else the truth of righteousness is smothered in religious traditions that make the Word of God of no effect. In Eph 6:11 Paul tells us to put on the whole [complete] armor of God. The breastplate was used to protect from the neck to the waist, front and back. Righteousness is our breastplate; don't leave home without it.

1 Corinthians 15:34

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. (KJV)

✠ Paul is telling us to not be ignorant and awake [arouse from sleep, stir interest, become alert, conscious, vigilant, watchful] to righteousness and let your daily conduct reflect the righteousness of God.

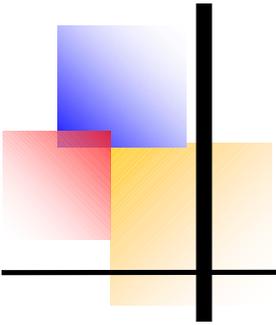
Romans 10:1-3 1

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. (KJV)

✠ Paul's prayer was directed to Israel but I believe it applies to anyone that is ignorant of God's righteousness. We must submit [yield or surrender] ourselves to the righteousness of God and not attempt to establish our own, for our righteousness is as filthy rags.



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2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]. (AMP)

- ✠ It isn't hard to believe that Jesus was made to be sin for us, but it takes faith and boldness to believe we are endued with, viewed as being, and examples of the righteousness of God. We are approved, acceptable and in right relationship with the Lord. When we look in the mirror it takes a lot of faith to submit to this Word.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

- ✠ Jesus placed a lot of importance on seeking His righteousness but most Christians don't believe in this righteousness, let alone seek it first.

James 5:16

"...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]." (AMP)

- ✠ Is it any wonder the devil tries to keep us from seeking first the righteousness of God?

Romans 10:10

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (KJV)

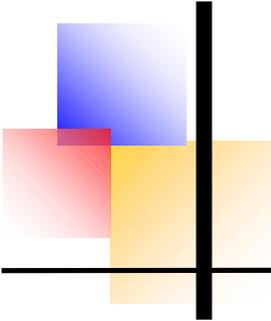
- ✠ We were made the righteousness of God at the time of our rebirth. It was our spirit that was changed, not our mind or body. Most Christians are sense ruled and believe what they see and feel. The just will live by faith and according to the Word.

Philippians 3:9

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (KJV)

2 Corinthians 9:10

And he that supplieth seed to the sower and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness: (ASV)



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† When you see the fruit of righteousness you will see faithfulness, truthfulness, a firm adherence and devotion to Jesus and His body. A righteous person is someone who is loyal, full of faith, worthy of trust or belief, reliable, consistent with truth, honest, has integrity, soundness and is holy [steadfast adherence to strict morals or ethics]. To please God you must produce [grow, display, exhibit, yield] the fruit of righteousness.

1 John 3:7

Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous, even as He is righteous. (AMP)

† Here is a good chance to put works with your faith. It isn't good enough to receive His righteousness by faith without corresponding action. Jesus said, "I only do what I see the Father do". John said for us to conform to the divine will in purpose, thought and action, living a consistent life guided by or in accordance with the dictates of conscience. He goes on to say he who practices righteousness is righteous, even as or just like He is righteous. Faith calls those things that be not as though they were.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

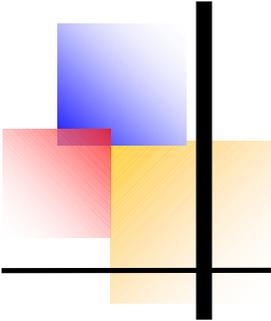
16 Every Scripture is Godbreathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),

17 So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work. (AMP)

† The Word of God is used for training in righteousness and holy living. The Word will conform our thoughts, purposes, and actions to His will for our lives. It is possible to change our conduct to line up with righteousness and holiness.

Romans 5:17

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. (NIV)



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Romans 3:21-26

21 But now the righteousness of God has been revealed independently and altogether apart from the Law, although actually it is attested by the Law and the Prophets,

22 Namely, the righteousness of God which comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [And it is meant] for all who believe. For there is no distinction,

23 Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives.

24 [All] are justified and made upright and in right standing with God, freely and gratuitously by His grace (His unmerited favor and mercy), through the redemption which is [provided] in Christ Jesus,

25 Whom God put forward [before the eyes of all] as a mercy seat and propitiation by His blood [the cleansing and life-giving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation, to be received] through faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over and ignored former sins without punishment.

26 It was to demonstrate and prove at the present time (in the now season) that He Himself is righteous and that He justifies and accepts as righteous him who has [true] faith in Jesus. (AMP)

✠ In some circles Romans 3:23 is used to oppress people which will always produce hopeless, down cast, defeated Christians. To talk about verse 23 without teaching what comes before and after is to take the verse out of context. Paul said compared to the glory and honor that God receives and presents as a gift, there is none that measure up. If you preach sin and worthlessness it is imperative that you give the solution at the same time. The idea here is to leave sin and cleave to righteousness. Jesus gave His life so we could be righteous, to be in right standing with God to be justified, right or correct. Righteousness is a free gift that comes by grace and is received by faith. To continue to hold on to your sin and unrighteousness is to refuse His gift. We are told to submit to this righteousness. God receives more glory and honor when we exalt the fact that He took a worthless hell bound creature and made him to be the righteousness of God. When we are forever talking about how unworthy we are it brings attention to self not God.

Genesis 2:25

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (NIV)

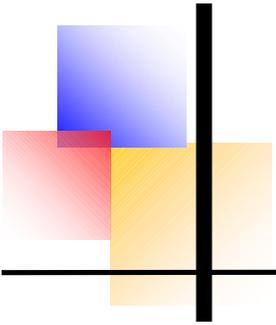
Genesis 3:9-11,21

9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. (NIV)



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Note: As I studied righteousness I found something interesting concerning clothing. When Adam and Eve were in the garden they were without natural clothing yet they felt no shame. After the transgression however they hid themselves because of their nakedness, and God had to cover them with the skins of animals. Every creature God created is clothed from the inside out except man. I believe that God created man clothed but not with natural garments. Man was clothed in God's glory because man was made in God's likeness and image. Follow the next verses closely.

Isaiah 64:6

For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousnesses are as a polluted garment: and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ASV)

Revelation 16:15

"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." (NIV)

✠ He's not talking about natural clothing here, but salvation and righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (NIV)

Job 29:14

I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban. (NIV)

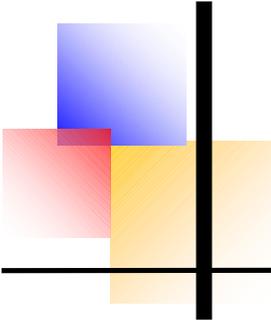
Revelation 19:7-8

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (KJV)

Psalms 132:9

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. (KJV)



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Revelation 5:10

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (KJV)

- ✠ Jesus is coming for a church without spot or wrinkle, clothed in garments of salvation and robes of righteousness. Don't be caught in your own polluted garments or be found naked. If you are, you will not be allowed to go through the gates of the city, which is the home of righteousness.

2 Pet 3:13-14

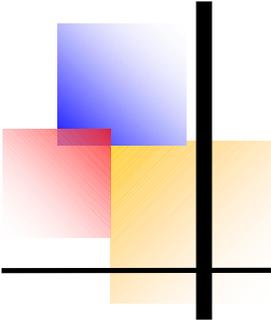
13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (NIV)

- ✠ WE MUST make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him, and it must be done now. If you wait until you get to heaven it will be too late.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. (NIV)



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Greek Word Studies

Righteousness - is "the character or quality of being right or just"; it was formerly spelled "rightwiseness," which clearly expresses the meaning.

English Word Studies

Righteous - Morally upright; without guilt or sin. In accordance with virtue or morality. Morally justifiable.

Justify - To demonstrate or prove to be just, right, or valid. To declare free of blame; absolve. Theology. To free (a human being) of the guilt and penalty attached to grievous sin. Used only of God.

Seek - To try to locate or discover; search for. To endeavor to obtain or reach. To go to or toward. To inquire for; request. To try; endeavor. Obsolete. To explore. To make a search or an investigation.

Submit - To yield or surrender (oneself) to the will or authority of another. To subject to a condition or process. To commit (something) to the consideration or judgment of another. To offer as a proposition or contention. To give in to the authority, power, or desires of another. To allow oneself to be subjected to something.

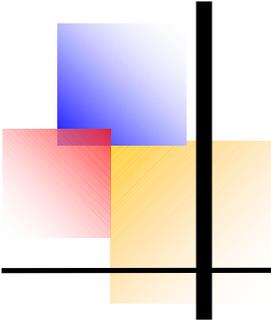
Ignorant - Lacking education or knowledge. Showing or arising from a lack of education or knowledge. Unaware or uninformed.

Establish - To set up; found. To bring about; generate. To place or settle in a secure position or condition; install. To make firm or secure. To cause to be recognized and accepted. To introduce and put (a law, for example) into force. To prove the validity or truth of. To make a state institution of (a church).

Extra Blessing

(Study To Show Yourself Approved Unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 6:7; Galatians 2:21; Galatians 3:6,21
Ephesians 4:24; Philippians 1:11; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22
James 2:23; James 3:8; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 2:29



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Study Questions

1. Using the word study give an in depth explanation of Romans 10:3.
2. What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness?
3. Complete the following verse. "For our sakes He made Christ _____."
4. John said "let no one deceive and lead you astray" what was he warning us about?
5. Complete the following verse. "Namely, the righteousness of God _____."
6. Using the definitions to assist you expound on Romans 3:24.
7. Using the word study give an in depth explanation of what it means to be justified and righteous.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?