

The Attributes of God – Righteousness

I. Righteousness (definition)

- “Rightwiseness” is a former spelling which more clearly expresses its meaning.
- God is always righteous.
- God’s righteousness causes Him to always think and do what is right or act in perfect goodness in relation to His creation.
- God can’t make a choice that is not right.
- Verses:

Psalm 116:5

Psalm 71:19

Psalm 112:2-3

Psalm 48:19

Isaiah 41:10

Revelation 15:4

Psalm 119:137-144

- Application: How can we know what God thinks is right if we don’t study His Word?

II. Righteousness and the Other Attributes

Love

Immutable

Omnipotence

Aseity

Omniscience

Holiness

Eternal

Omnipresent

III. Righteousness AND Justice (Two Sides of the Same Coin)

- You can’t have righteousness without having justice.
 - Verses:
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Psalm 9:8 | Psalm 33:5 | Psalm 36:6 |
| Psalm 48:10 | Psalm 89:14 | Amos 5:24 |
- God is just in that He has perfect integrity or moral character. Sin, therefore, cannot be tolerated or go unpunished under His sovereign rule.
 - The primary purpose of the punishment of sin is the maintenance of what is right – justice.

IV. How Do We Measure Up To This?

- Is our righteousness something we earn by having perfect obedience to God? (Go to next bullet point.)
- We are neither perfect nor obedient, so we can’t “earn” anything.
- We are completely unrighteous.
- Do we confuse moral behavior, what we might call self-righteousness, with true God-honoring righteousness?
- We are under God’s wrath (Romans 1:18).

V. Righteousness Fulfilled in the Gospel

- Romans 1:16-17 – **“the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God is REVEALED”**
- Romans 3:26 -- God sacrificed his OWN perfect son, who deserved no wrath, to satisfy His RIGHTEOUSNESS, if we believe that, then we are saved by faith.
- Romans 4:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 5:21

“No man can put on the robes of Christ’s righteousness till he has taken off his own. Nothing can damn a man but his own righteousness; nothing can save him but the righteousness of Christ.” --Charles Spurgeon

Discussion:

1. As a believer in Jesus Christ, after being reminded of God's perfect righteousness, and all God has done through Jesus to reconcile us to Him through faith, how does this change your perspective on your own sin and God's grace?

2. What do each of these verses say about how to truly live a Spirit-filled righteous life?

Micah 6:8 -- _____

Romans 12:1-2 -- _____

Colossians 3:12-13 -- _____

1 Peter 1:5-8 _____

3. How does this idea of "His robes for mine" influence your relationship with God AND your interactions with others?
4. How can we examine our lives to ensure we are clothed in Christ's righteousness and not merely trusting in our own merits for salvation?
5. How should God's righteousness affect our actions, such as our speech and dealing with others?
6. From our answers to No. 5 above, how could we better pray for one another to grow spiritually?