

MADE RIGHT BY LOVE

- A. Introduction: To walk in victory in the midst of life's challenges you must learn to see God as He truly is and yourself as you truly are in relation to Him. God is for you, therefore, although hardships may come your way because we live in a sin cursed earth, God will help you if you look to Him.
1. Christians struggle with believing that God is for them because they don't understand the reason God made men. God made men for sonship. Love was the motivation for creation.
 - a. Eph 1:4,5--He has done what in His kindness He planned to do: Before He made the world, He who loved us appointed us to be His son by Jesus Christ. In Him He chose us to be holy and blameless before Him. (Beck)
 - b. God made men in His image -- as much like Himself as a creature can be like his Creator -- so that relationship would be possible. When God made Adam He made a son and a race of sons in Adam. Gen 1:26; Ps 8:5; Luke 3:38; Gen 5:1,2
 2. God gave His son Adam one specific command. Adam was not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because, if he did, he would die. Gen 2:16,17
 - a. There was nothing wrong (harmful or hurtful) in the tree itself. Death came as the result of sin. Sin is choosing independence from God who is the source of life. Rom 6:23
 - b. Adam chose independence from God, and Adam and the race in Adam went into death. God's family was lost to the purpose for which God created men -- life, sonship, relationship. Titus 1:2
 3. God made man knowing men would sin and He devised a plan to undo what would happen because of their choice to be independent of Him.
 - a. God Himself would take on flesh, unite Himself to human nature (incarnate), and join us in death at the Cross. Rev 13:8
 1. He took our death and the cause of our death (sin) on Himself so He could take us through death, bringing us out of death into life, back to sonship. Heb 2:14; II Tim 1:9,10; John 1:12
 2. Love was the motive behind God's choice to join us in death at the Cross. John 3:16--For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that no one who believes in him should be lost, but that they should have eternal life. (Goodspeed)
 - b. The purpose of salvation is not to keep sinners out of hell. The purpose of salvation is not to forgive sins (although it does both). The purpose of salvation is to deliver men from the pign of sin and death and restore them to their created purpose -- to be holy, spotless sons of God who live in loving relationship with Him. Jesus came to seek and save God's lost sons. Luke 19:10
 1. "Seek" implies active effort on the part of God to regain His lost family. Lost items don't lose their value when they are lost. They are lost to their created purpose. Luke 15:1-10
 2. "Salvation" includes not only paying the price for sin so that men could be released from death, but also carrying out a process of cleansing and transformation which restores men to what God always intended them to be. Luke 15:11-32
 4. We want to continue our discussion in this lesson by considering how God, in His love, makes us right.
- B. God knows a perfect, fearfully and wonderfully made you, the you He made in Adam, the you before sin (Gen 1:31; Heb 7:9; Ps 139:14). The purpose of salvation is to restore you to the image that God has had in mind for you since eternity past -- the you He created you to be.
1. Rom 8:29 gives further light on the purpose for which God created men. God's plan for men is that we become sons like Jesus -- the perfect Son.
 - a. Rom 8:29--To be made like to the pattern of His Son (Conybeare); to share the likeness of His Son (Weymouth); [and share inwardly His likeness] (Amp).
 - b. You don't become Jesus. You become like Him in holiness, power, and love. You don't get replaced by Jesus. You get transformed by Him, by the life you receive from Him.
 2. When a person believes on Jesus they receive eternal life (John 3:16). "Eternal life" is not a reference

to “length of life”. We were all going to live forever before we knew Jesus -- in hell.

- a. Eternal life refers to quality or type of life. When a person puts faith in Jesus and submits to His Lordship, that person is “born again”. That person receives in his spirit (the inward part of his being) the life of God, the life in God -- the uncreated, eternal life in God Himself.
 - b. When a person believes on Jesus he literally believes “into” Jesus. A union takes place between his spirit (his inward man) and the life that is in God Himself.
 1. John 3:16--He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him (Worrell).
 2. Through the new birth we become partakers of the eternal life of God as truly as a branch draws life from a vine. John 15:5
 3. Rom 8:29 states the purpose for which men were created. v30 describes the process by which God carried out His plan to regain his family from the pigpen of sin and death and bring them back to life.
 - a. God calls us. To call means to bid, summon, invite, implying active effort on God’s part to regain His family. God left Heaven, took on flesh, went to the Cross, submitting to death, so He could obtain His family.
 - b. God justifies us. To justify means to make us as if we had never sinned. God did not make men to sin or for sin, so His plan must include removal of sin -- its cause, its effects, its memory. His goal is not, has never been, to punish sin, but rather to remove it -- undo the damage done by sin so His original plan for holy, spotless sons can be carried out. Heb 9:26, 8:12
 - c. To glorify means to transform with eternal life. God glorifies us or transforms us by giving us His life, eternal life, in every part of our being. This transformation occurs in stages.
 1. At the new birth our spirit is instantly and fully glorified or made alive with the life of God.
 2. At the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead our bodies will be instantly glorified or transformed into bodies like Jesus’ resurrection body.
 3. Right now, as we study and act on God’s word our mind, emotions, and behavior can be increasingly transformed by the life of God.
 4. You must understand that salvation is a process. We are finished works in progress -- fully God’s sons through faith in Christ, but not yet fully conformed to the image of Christ in every part of our being.
 - a. I John 3:2--Dear friends, we are God’s Children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. What we know is that when it is revealed, we shall be like Christ. (20th Cent); But we know that when He comes and is manifested we shall [as God’s children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is. (Amp).
 - b. God deals with you on the basis of the part that is finished (you are His son), not on the basis of the parts that are not finished (not yet fully conformed to the image of Christ, the perfect Son), because He knows that the process begun at the new birth will be completed.
 1. Phil 1:6--And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns. (Living Bible); And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ -- right up to the time of His return -- developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you. (Amp)
 2. Rom 5:10--It is far more certain that now that we are reconciled we shall be saved through the sharing of his life. (Goodspeed)
- C. To help us understand what we truly are in relation to God we need to talk about what it means to be justified. Rom 8:30--He also made righteous (Berkeley); has also acquitted (Weymouth); makes upright (Goodspeed); He brings into right standing with Himself (Williams).
1. The original Greek word translated justified comes from a root word (DIKE) which means right.
 - a. In the King James Bible, when we see the words “just and righteous” (and the various forms of those words: justified, justifier, justification, righteousness, righteously), ninety-nine percent of

the time, the words just and righteous, in the Greek are from the same root word (DIKE).

- b. To be justified, to be made just, to be made righteous, means to be made right. Righteousness is rightness.
- 2.. Because of sin, men are not right -- not right with God and not right in themselves. Men are not as they should be, not as God meant them to be. The goal of salvation is to make men right with God and make us right in our makeup and behavior.
 - a. We are all guilty of sin before a Holy God and we are bound by the penalty of sin which is death in all its forms. God took on flesh, was born into this world, and went to the Cross to deal with us and our sin.
 - b. In Rom 1:16 Paul said he was not ashamed of the gospel (good news) of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection because it is an instrument of God's power bringing salvation to all who believe in it.
 1. It reveals God's way of justifying us (Knox); I see in it God's plan for imparting righteousness to men (Phillips); because here is revealed God's way of righting wrong (NEB).
 2. Through the Cross of Christ God makes men right with Himself (Rom 3:24), makes men right in themselves. Why? It's part of His plan to get His family back
 - c. When we believe the gospel we are justified (Rom 3:24; 5:1; 8:30). Consider what this word means according to Strong's Concordance.
 1. To show or to regard as just or innocent; to declare one just. To absolve (set free from the consequence of guilt), to acquit (to declare not guilty of a crime or offense; to release or clear from a charge).
 2. To declare to be just or as one should be, to pronounce right; to regard as right and proper.
 - d. On the ground of the Cross God gives us the gift of justification or righteousness. Rom 5:17--the gift of uprightness (Goodspeed).
3. When we come to faith in Christ we receive two kinds of righteousness: imputed and imparted.
 - a. Rom 4:22-24--Righteousness is imputed to us. The Greek word translated imputed means to reckon or count to someone; to put to one's account.
 1. v22--His faith was regarded (20th Cent) counted (Moffatt) credited (Weymouth) as righteousness.
 2. Because of the work of Christ at the Cross, when we put faith in Him, we are declared righteous, counted righteous, considered righteous by God.
 - b. Not only are we counted righteousness, at the new birth we receive the righteousness of God into our spirit when eternal life comes in and begins the transforming process of salvation.
 1. II Cor 5:21--that we might be changed into the righteousness of God in Christ (Conybeare); so that we through union with him, might become the righteousness of God (20th Cent); so that in him we might be turned into the holiness of God (Knox); so that in Christ we might be made good with the goodness of God (Phillips).
 2. When Adam sinned, a fundamental change in human nature occurred. It displayed itself when the first son born to Adam and Eve murdered his brother and lied about it. Beings made in the image of God were now acting like the devil. Gen 4:1-9; John 8:44; I John 3:10
 3. Rom 5:19--For as through the disobedience of the one man (20th Cent) the many were constituted sinners (ABUV) the whole race was rendered sinful (20th Cent). Through the obedience of Christ at the Cross, Rom 5:19--will many be constituted righteous (ABUV); rendered righteous (20th Cent).
4. Righteousness isn't just something we have -- it's something we become. The life of God in us recreates our spirit and makes it right, as God meant for it to be from the beginning. That life will ultimately transform our entire being, restoring us to what God intends us to be.
- D. Conclusion: You must learn to see yourself as you truly are in relation to God: justified, righteous, right and being made right -- a finished work in progress.

1. Love was the reason for creation and love was the reason for the Cross which provides the salvation that will restore you to your created purpose -- holy, spotless sonship. Eph 1:4,5; I John 4:9,10
 - a. In Rom 8:29,30 Paul lists the plan of God for man and the process by which God carries out the plan. Then, in v31 Paul makes the statement: What shall we conclude from this? (Goodspeed).
 - b. The rest of the chapter is a statement of what it meant to Paul's life and what it should mean to us to have an understanding of what God's plan shows us about God and about what we truly are in relation to Him.
 1. v31--This plan shows that God is for us. If He is for us nothing can be against us. Things will come against us in this life but nothing can cause us permanent harm or loss because we are sons of God.
 2. v32--If God gave us His Son why would He "fail to lavish upon us all He has to give" (NEB).
 - c. Things do challenge us in this life -- circumstances, thoughts, emotions, other people, devils, etc. But, when you understand God's plan for you and what God in His love, through salvation has provided and is providing, you can stand up against what life brings your way. v37-39
2. Because of the Cross which made possible the new birth we have been justified. We have been made right in our spirit. We have been made holy, righteous sons of God. And a process has begun which will ultimately make us right in every part of our being -- fully conformed to the image of Christ.
 - a. Our behavior does not yet fully match what we are. When you fail, when you sin, you must remember, there is a difference between what you are and what you do. What you do doesn't change what you are. But what you are can change what you do.;
 1. v33--Who shall bring any charge against God's elect [when it is] God Who justifies (Amp); he who pronounces them righteous is God (20th Cent); ... Will God, who acquits them? (Weymouth).
 2. v34--What judge can doom us (Conybeare); it is Christ that died (ASV); Will Christ? No! For He is the One Who died for us. (Taylor)
 - b. What are you truly in relation to God? Right and being made right. God deals with you on the basis of the part that is finished. He sees the end result and He knows that the work He has begun in you will be completed.
 - c. God's plan, which was conceived in love, is to make you right -- right with Him and right in yourself. If this is the plan, why would He be against you in this life?
3. Does all of this mean that it doesn't matter how you live? Of course not! God justified us, made us right and is making us right, so that we could and would live right.
 - a. If you are looking for reasons to excuse chronic, sinful behavior, you need to examine yourself to see if you are really in the faith. The transformation in your spirit at the new birth is supposed to produce a desire in you to please and obey God.
 - b. In the context of calling us finished works in progress, the apostle John said that the knowledge of what we are and are becoming should inspire us to holy living (I John 3:3). More next week!!