

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 32:17-18 The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. 18: My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Righteousness is the quality of being right, or rightness or just. Formerly spelt "*rightwiseness*", or the English translation is innocence

Righteousness is a gracious gift of God to men whereby all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are brought into right relationship with God, and declared not guilty and innocent.

However, there was a time when we were in sin and therefore unacceptable to God.

But through the gift of Christ's righteousness, we are made acceptable before God

Ephesians 1:6-7 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

The righteous servant, Jesus Christ, through His sacrificial death on the cross shall justify many.

Isaiah 53:11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. Because of his experience, **my righteous servant** will make it possible for many **to be counted righteous**, for he will bear all their sins.

JESUS' LIFE JUSTIFIES US

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. NIV

- Christ's redemptive work on the cross established peace between God and man.

Colossians 1:20 By him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. KJV

WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD, BECAUSE WE WERE JUSTIFIED.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified (**made right in God's sight**) through faith, **WE HAVE PEACE with GOD** through our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

Once we were enemies of God – but no more

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! NIV

Ephesians 2:15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. **he made peace**

between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. NLT

THE EFFECT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ON THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

Isaiah 32:17-18 And this righteousness will bring peace. Yes, it will bring quietness and confidence forever. 18: My people will live in safety, quietly at home. They will be at rest. NLT

The effect of having been made righteous is:

- **quietness** and **confidence** forever
- living in in a state safety and rest

This **confidence** gives to **us** the feeling of being **safe** and **secure**. Producing in us a sense of **wellbeing**.

The work of **righteousness** of Christ declaring the sinner **righteous** means they **now** have **peace with God**. (*Romans 5:1*)

The effect of **righteousness** on the life of the believer is enjoying the daily presence of **God's peace working** in their lives.

Philippians 4:7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

- **His peace** transcends all our understanding.
- **His peace** will guard our hearts and minds in all kinds of circumstances that we may face.
- **His peace** is designed to be an **umpire** in our lives; one that **arbitrates, decides, rules** in our hearts in the midst of all kinds of situations that we face in life.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

RIGHTEOUSNESS PRODUCES THREE MAIN BENEFITS FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. Righteousness gives us confidence before God.

Hebrews 10:19 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.

Romans 5:9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

2. Righteousness gives us confidence before Satan.

Revelation 12:10 “.... For **the accuser** of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth - the one who accuses them before our God day and night.....”

When we know, and are fully convinced of our standing with God, through the righteousness of Christ, it gives to us confidence and courage to reject the devil's lies and accusations.

3. Righteousness gives us confidence before people (man).

Knowing that we are made right with god gives us the ability to handle the criticisms and complaints that people might make against us.

Also, the offences and hurts that come from people's poor behaviour towards us and

The disappointment with ourselves because of poor choices we made and the failures that resulted do not prevent us from continuing on.

In quietness and confidence.

Isaiah 30:15 “This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. **In quietness and confidence is your strength.**” NLT.