

July 17, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The darkness of trials only makes
God's grace shine brighter

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Father, in the face of life's sometimes
awful circumstances, may we find
Your grace to be a source of awe and
wonder. Instruct us in our trials, and
carry us in Your arms when we are
overwhelmed.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

*4 But let patience have its perfect work,
that you may be perfect and complete,
lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks
wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives
to all liberally and without reproach,
and it will be given to him*

(James 1:4-5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 4, 2016)

Series: Toward A New Salvation

UNIT: Life on God's Terms

NEXT WEEK

Unwavering Hope

(Rom 5:1-11)

Set Right By Grace **Rom 3:21-31**

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson establishes that all mankind can be **Set Right By Grace**. The **study's aim** is to see how God can be just and right and still justify the believing sinner. The **study's application** is to know that we live by faith and the grace of God and not through law and works.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

This text is set up in a problem/solution format. Thankfully, God's solution to our problem is more than sufficient. What is the problem? In a word, it is sin. It is looked at from a couple of different ways in the text. First, sin involves all of us. All have sinned. Since the Fall of Adam and Eve, no one has lived a perfectly sinless life. The whole human family is in the same boat as far as God is concerned. Here on earth, we have various ways of comparing the relative goodness and badness of our fellow human beings, and that can be helpful in some cases; but all of that is irrelevant for the purposes of God and salvation. All have sinned. All have the same problem. Next, we see that sin causes us to fail short of God's glory. The meaning of "to fall short" is a simple one: "to not have enough." It is sometimes used of poverty. It focuses on what is lacking. We are lacking what is necessary to experience God's glory. The glory of God is a broad term, encompassing all that He is in His eternal and holy nature. I think it probably has a future sense here also; that is, it refers to the future reality of experiencing the glory of God's presence in heaven. Because of sin, we all fall short of experiencing that. We cannot make it back to God. We cannot make it to heaven. We cannot enter into God's presence. In heaven nothing defiled or sinful will be allowed (Rev. 21:27). That is the problem. All have sinned. And our sins keep us from heaven and all the blessings of God's eternal presence and power. This is the most significant problem of the human race, though not everyone recognizes it. So what is the solution? The solution is God's plan and work of redemption, of salvation through grace, and of justification by faith. Let us outline the elements of this plan. First, it involves being justified through faith in Christ. The term "justified" comes out of the legal world—it refers to being declared not guilty. The word has the same root as the word "righteousness." It means to be declared righteous, to achieve a completely righteous standing that is not by works but by God's grace. We can be made righteous only by God's grace. Second, let us also note that salvation is a free gift. It is not earned or purchased. The term "free" is used. We all know what that means. You do not have to pay for it. It is received without payment. This is grace—God's unmerited favor. Through faith in Christ, we are given the righteousness we could never achieve on our own. This is what obliterates the problem of sin and falling short. A third point is that this all flows from Christ's redemption, that is, His purchase of us by His blood. "Redemption" is a broad term that has in the background a commercial transaction, particularly the purchase of bondage. Redemption gives a total picture of God's saving work for a sinner. Only grace can overcome our problem; only grace can make us right for heaven. Thanks be to God for the free and powerful gift of salvation.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

REVELATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROM 3:21-22)

Righteousness apart from the Law (21)

A righteousness that brings eternal life (Rom 5:21)

A righteousness that we have in Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)

A righteousness that God made through Jesus (2 Cor 5:21)

A righteousness that we have faith and hope in (Gal 5:5)

Righteousness of God (22)

Righteousness from God that allows knowledge of Jesus (Phil 3:7-9)

Righteousness from being a part of the Kingdom of God (Rom 14:17)

Righteousness from God through the gospel (Rom 1:17)

Righteousness from God through Jesus taking our sins (2 Cor 5:21)

GRACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROM 3:23-24)

Grace and righteousness because all have sinned (23)

All sinned because there are none who are righteous on earth (Eccl 7:20)

All sinned because all are under sin (Rom 3:9)

All sinned because the whole world is a prisoner of sin (Gal 3:22)

All sinned because no one can claim to be without sin (1 John 1:8)

All sinned because sin entered the world through one man (Rom 5:12-13)

All sinned because all are slaves to sin (Rom 6:20)

Need for justification (24)

Justification to fulfill God's promise (Rom 4:16)

Justification through faith in Jesus (Gal 2:16)

Justification through faith that is accompanied by works (James 2:24)

Justification for those who believe in Jesus (Acts 13:39)

Need for grace (24)

Need for grace because grace reigns over the law (Rom 5:20-21)

Need for grace because we are under grace not the law (Rom 6:13-18)

Need for grace because God has chosen His remnant by grace (Rom 11:5-6)

Need for grace because God makes grace abound in us (2 Cor 9:8)

Need for grace because God's grace is sufficient in all things (2 Cor 12:9)

Need for grace because we are saved by grace (Eph 2:8-9)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROM 3:25-26)

Righteousness through Jesus' blood (25)

God defined the blood as the atonement vehicle for sins (Lev 17:11)

Jesus' blood justifies (Rom 5:9)

Jesus' blood reconciles man to God (Col 1:19-20)

Blood of the new covenant (Matt 26:28)

Blood that brings redemption (Eph 1:7)

Blood that cleanses our conscience from dead works (Heb 9:14)

Blood that brings us near to God (Eph 2:13)

Righteousness through God's patience (25)

God's patience is manifested through grace (Ps 103:8)

Patience that should lead to our repentance (Rom 2:4)

Patience because God wants all to repent (2 Peter 3:9)

Righteousness judgment (26)

Because God's judgment is based on truth (Rom 2:2)

Because God judges in righteousness and justice (Ps 9:7-8)

Because God is righteous in all His ways (Ps 145:17)

Because God will judge the world through Jesus (Acts 17:31)

Because God's judgment is right (2 Thess 1:5)

FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROM 3:27-31)

Righteousness not by works (27)

Because if God kept a record of works and sins, no one would be saved (Ps 130:3-4)

Because no one can be justified by works (Acts 13:38-39)

Because if by works, there would be no value in faith (Rom 4:13-14)

Because it is only through God's mercy anyone is justified (Titus 3:4-7)

Because works of the law never made anyone perfect (Heb 7:18-19)

Righteousness is by faith (28)

Righteousness by faith because God's faithfulness cannot be nullified (Rom 3:3)

Righteousness by faith because it is through faith that God is pleased (Heb 11:6)

Righteousness by faith because it provides hope (Heb 11:1-2)

Righteousness that is lived by faith (Rom 1:17)

Righteousness for all by faith (29-31)

For all because God wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)

For all because God wants all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:1-4)

For all because Jesus came to save the lost (Luke 19:10)

For all because Jesus was sacrificed to justify all men (Rom 5:18)

For all because God's grace brings salvation before all men (Titus 2:11)