

## RESTING IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Last Sunday night, Christopher Lambe, senior pastor here  
Asked me to speak today.*

*I was attempting to relax and unwind*

*After a very busy time with church*

*(If you saw last week's video, you may remember the issues we had  
with the live-streaming)*

*My mind was still spinning and I didn't feel well ...*

*Then Chris contacted me and laid it on me ...*

*And I felt incredulous and amused ...*

***I'VE NEVER SHARED A SUNDAY CHURCH MESSAGE BEFORE  
HAD NO TRAINING ... NO EXPERIENCE ...***

***AND HE ASKS ME TO DO IT BEFORE A CAMERA –  
THAT IS LIVE-STREAMING AROUND THE WORLD!!!***

*But as I talked to him about it*

*An overwhelming peace enveloped me*

*I was aware of God's Grace and enabling ...*

*And knew that, despite how I felt,*

***OUR MIGHTY GOD COULD DO IT IN ME!***

***IT HAD TO BE JESUS – BEGINNING TO END!***

*And as I've rested in HIM this week -*

*And I won't say I haven't had my struggles -*

*Here I am ... by His Grace ...*

***All glory to Jesus!***

Today, let's look at the Scriptures on -

## RESTING IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

When we are saved

We put our faith in Jesus -

That He took the total penalty for our sin.

This is what being a Christian means.

## ESTABLISHING CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AS OURS

But we call ourselves Grace Christians.

What does that mean?

It means that we rely on Jesus' righteousness - and not our own.

We can know we stand 100% righteous -

In Christ's righteousness.

Because of all Jesus did to obtain our salvation

We stand righteous in Him.

*But somehow, I couldn't come to grips with this -  
How does Jesus' righteousness get to be ours???*

*I know He died so that we can be forever forgiven,  
And we rose with Him by faith to new life ...*

*But how does righteousness come to us?*

*I talked to Chris about it*

*And he gave me some good points to ponder and study ...*

*But ... I can get a bit technical about things ...*

*And that's what he wisely told me.*

*However, these thoughts started me on this message ...*

How do we get from being sin free – to being accounted righteous???

Something just wasn't clicking for me ...

In my study, I found this beautiful verse

That answered my question ...

It tells us how Jesus spotless life was lived to give us righteousness -

Romans 5:18 Holman Christian Standard Bible **SLIDE**

*... As through one trespass [Adam's sin] there is condemnation for everyone, so also **through one righteous act [Jesus' righteous life] there is life-giving justification [righteousification] for everyone [who will receive it].***

**'Righteousification'** -

We know that *'justified'* means we are declared righteous

In this passage it means, *'we have been made righteous'*.

Hence '*righteousification*' ...  
That's my new word for it, anyway ...

*It's like you had money stolen out of your bank account ...  
And You owe money that you now can't pay ...  
But then,  
Someone paid a sum into your account for you  
And your problem is fixed.*

This is just what Jesus Righteous life did for us  
His Righteous life was lived on our behalf, to bring us TO  
RIGHTEOUSNESS -  
So that we can live, resting in HIS righteousness.

We can have all confidence  
That we stand righteous before God.  
Not in our own ability ... but -

**SLIDE** BECAUSE OF THE GIFT OF JESUS' RIGHTEOUS LIFE –  
GIVEN TO US  
WE CAN REST AS RIGHTEOUS

PROBLEMS:

- 1 PEOPLE DON'T REST IN RIGHTEOUSNESS -  
BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS
- 2 PEOPLE DON'T REST IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS -  
BECAUSE THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO BE RIGHTEOUS
- 3 PEOPLE DON'T REST IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS -  
BECAUSE THEY DON'T VALUE WHAT THEY HAVE

1. PEOPLE DON'T REST IN RIGHTEOUSNESS  
BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS **SLIDE**

*'But', you say, 'I don't feel righteous!'*

Here, at New Creation Church Queensland, where we're taught this  
truth continually -

*Satan still whispers in our minds -  
'Oh look what you've done!!'*

*'Now you've blown it.  
'You're not righteous!  
'Does God really accept you?  
'You're not really good enough!'*

And the thoughts go round and round in our heads

But Scripture speaks to us plainly

1 Corinthians 1:30 BLB

*But of God, you are in **Christ Jesus**, who **has been made unto us ... righteousness** and sanctification and redemption.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 BSB **SLIDE**

*God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him **we might become the righteousness of God.***

Whether we feel like it or not ...

God has made us righteous through His Son.

**SLIDE** [Car]

*I have a new car*

*But if you looked in the parking lot,*

*You won't have seen it.*

*Because my wonderful brother-in-law David has it.*

*He found it for me.*

*I just had to say, 'Yes please',*

*And he's doing the rest -*

*Having it fixed up*

*Ready to drive.*

*I don't have it -*

*But I know it's mine.*

*How do I know the Car is mine?*

*Because I have 'David's word'*

*I know him ...*

*And love and Trust Him.*

*I know he's doing it for me.*

**So also**

**WE KNOW WE HAVE CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUS  
BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS**

Jesus said, *'I know my sheep and am known by My own'* (John 10:14)

**WE KNOW WE ARE RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE THE ONE-WE-KNOW HAS TOLD US.**

**AND OUR NEW HEART KNOWS BY FAITH.**

We are righteous by Faith in Him and in His word to us.

**YOUR HEART ALREADY KNOWS ...**

**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART.**

**THIS IS FAITH ...**

**IF YOU JUDGE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BY YOUR BEHAVIOUR OR YOUR FAILURE -**

**YOU WILL ALWAYS BE DISCOURAGED.**

**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART ...**

**HERE YOU WILL REST IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS  
DESPITE HOW YOU MIGHT FAIL OUTWARDLY ...**

But, you say, I still fail and make mistakes ...

***DIRTY BOY ANALOGY* SLIDE**

*Imagine you are meeting well-to-do people whom you admire -  
And want to make a good impression on.*

*You want to show off your family,  
Looking all sweet and beautiful.*

*And they have children and you know it will be a treat for your kids  
to play with them.*

*Now your little Johnny is very energetic.  
You've reminded him to be careful -  
And try and stay clean ...*

*So, you've arrived and met your friends -  
Everything is going along nicely.  
And the children are playing happily outside ...  
But then you hear a wailing ...*

*Oh no! That's a familiar sound ...  
You rush out, only to find that Little Johnny has started playing  
with other children and gotten the worst end of a mud fight  
Aaagh!! What a mess!!*

*Sigh ... So much for the good impression ...*

*Mrs Well-to-do is horrified and calls her children away to play inside. She doesn't want her children contaminated by all that grime ...*

*But you love Johnny as your son.*

*It doesn't matter how dirty he is.*

**HE IS STILL YOUR SON.**

**AND HE IS 100% ACCEPTED BY YOU.**

**NOT BECAUSE OF HIS OUTWARD ACTIONS OR APPEARANCE ...**

**BUT BECAUSE OF HIS BLOOD-LINE – HE BELONGS TO THE FAMILY.**

So it is with Jesus.

It doesn't matter how you feel.

It doesn't matter what mistakes you've made.

You can KNOW you belong ...

You are loved and righteous in God's sight ...

Jesus' righteousness was legally obtained for you.

The judgment was been spoken and the price was paid.

You stand righteous in Him and can rest in His glorious righteousness on your behalf.

**2. PEOPLE DON'T REST IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS  
BECAUSE THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO BE RIGHTEOUS BY  
THEMSELVES SLIDE**

Sometimes it's hard to believe we are righteous.

And so we set about trying to prove we are ...

But it's futile trying to perfect ourselves.

Paul says of the Jewish leaders of his day -

Romans 10:3 SLIDE

*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.*

We need to submit to God's righteousness – the provision HE has made for us to be righteous.

We have to be as righteous as God.

Nothing else qualifies.

And that's why we need HIS Righteousness.  
Only Jesus pure spotless life is good enough.

Isaiah 64:6

*All our own righteous deeds are filthy rags* **SLIDE** [rags]

Sadly, so many Christians are flapping around  
Trying to prove themselves to God

*You've heard the silly story of the man who had so little faith in the plane he was travelling in, that he madly flapped his arms in a vain effort to keep the plane in the sky ...*

**Ridiculous!**

But aren't some Christians you know just like that?  
They are setting about to show how righteous they are ...  
So busy proving how good they are.

Sadly, some churches encourage this, and even preach it ...  
They have so many do's and don't's it's exhausting just thinking  
about it ...

To 'do' all the 'do's' and 'don't' all the 'don't's' would take quite  
some effort! -

**SLIDE** [of striving man] - 'I think I can ... I think I can ... I know I can ...  
I know I can ...

No wonder Hebrews tells us we need to cease from our own works

Hebrews 4:10

*For he who has entered His rest **has himself also ceased from his own works** as God did from His.*

**SLIDE**

**SIT BACK ...**

Relax ...

Put your feet up ...

**STOP STRIVING ...**

**STOP SINNING ...**

**START RESTING ...**

**SIT BACK & SAIL ON THE STREAM OF CHRIST'S  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

It's so much easier to Rest in the Righteousness Jesus has Given us, than to make all that useless effort ...

Especially since -

### JESUS FULFILLED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW FOR US

See what He says -

Matthew 3:15 **SLIDE**

*... It is fitting for [Me] to fulfill all righteousness ...*

Jesus Righteous life met all God's demands.

He fulfilled all righteousness on our behalf

He filled it full.

Completely.

Colossians 2:10 **SLIDE**

*And you are complete in Him ...*

We stand totally clean and complete in His righteousness.

We are 100% righteous before the Father -

As we rest in our Saviour's righteousness -

All He did for us ...

### JESUS FINALIZED THE LAW FOR US

Jesus has fulfilled all Righteousness

The Law has been satisfied!

As Jesus cried when He hung on the cross -

*'It is finished!'* (John 19:30)

Romans 10:4 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*For Christ is the **end of law** to bring righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Romans 6:14

*... For you are not under the law, but under grace.*

Jesus has finalized Righteousness for us and we can rest in it.

### AND JESUS ALSO FREED US FROM THE LAW'S PENALTY

John 5:24 **SLIDE**



**... He who hears My words and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement but has passed from death into life.**

*[See Supplementary]*

*When I was young, I had a dreadful fear of God's judgement ... I can remember lying on my bed, turning my face to the wall and crying ... I was so terrified ...*

**But that isn't the case for us any more!**

**We have passed from death to life and 'shall not come into judgement'.**

### **3. PEOPLE DON'T REST IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE THEY DON'T VALUE WHAT THEY HAVE SLIDE**

**Sometimes people don't KNOW that they are Righteous in Jesus.**

**Or they have trouble believing it ...**

**Or they've been striving for so long to no avail that they've just given up, feeling hopeless and condemned ...**

**Or they've been hurt and troubled and just get lost ...**

*I knew a person like that ...*

*They came into grace and liked to teach, and did that for a while.*

*It was all new to my family and we were interested in this 'Grace teaching'.*

*But sadly, we saw this person stop going to church.*

*They chose to do what they wanted to do.*

*They clung to their independence.*

*Thought they knew better than God.*

*And sadly, to all outward appearances, this person has turned from God ...*

**How sad!**

**People can get caught up again into sin and bondage.**

**They miss out on what God has for them.**

**They don't know the wonderful love of the Father for them -**

**And the precious fellowship they could enjoy with Him.**

**They miss out on God's great purpose for their life.**

**Tragic!**

**Romans 6:16** New Living Translation

***Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, Or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living?***

**Romans 6:21** Good News Version

***What did you gain from doing the things that you are now ashamed of? The result of those things is death.***

**Romans 6:23** **SLIDE**

***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.***

This isn't speaking of eternal death.

This is the consequences of sin, now, in this life.

The consequences to believers who choose to sin is death in their bodies, their souls ... Our bodies suffer and often show the consequence of sin in health or emotional issues ...

**WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE PEOPLE -**

The ones who have been genuinely saved

But become defeated

Or even turn away for a time ...

**GOD STILL LOVES THEM AND DOESN'T GIVE UP ON THEM**

***Consider the Grace of the Father in The Parable Of The Prodigal Son -***

***When the prodigal wanted to go and spend his inheritance,***

***The father didn't hold the son to law –***

***He didn't say – 'You can't do that!***

***He didn't refuse to let him go ...***

***The father gave him what he wanted ...***

***He actually enabled him to do what he wished ...***

***I'm sure he was very sad, but he gave him his desires ...***

***As God does to us ...***

Some people question if these people are even saved ...

Well, I'm sure they wouldn't think the prodigal was saved -

**SLIDE** ***Smelling like pigs, covered in grime, impoverished and hungry ...***

(A lot of Christians are spiritually in this same place ...)

*But the father of the prodigal never stopped looking for his return -  
Just as God never gives up on any of His children -*

*'Once a son of God, always a son of God'*

*Even while astray ...*

*And when the father's filthy, stinky son came shambling in,  
He didn't say 'O horrors! Do I know you? Have a bath and I'll talk to  
you ...'*

**NO!!!**

*The prodigal was still his father's son.*

**SLIDE** *The father ran and hugged him and called him, 'Son'!!*

*And said, 'This my son was dead, and is alive' (Luke 15:24)*

*He had been in the Realm of the dead*

*But he never stopped being His son!*

*He was still beloved.*

***ONCE A SON ALWAYS A SON TO GOD!***

**THIS IS THE INCREDIBLE UNENDING GRACE OF GOD!!**

This is God's grace to you

If you've been places you don't want to think about

Had mud and worse put on you ...

He's out watching for you ...

Looking forward to when you'll come home ...

You're still His beloved child ...

All Glory to our God of Grace.

But, for me, the big question is –

How do we keep from ending up in this place?

How do we keep the flesh in check?

Not let it rule ...

**SLIDE** **BY RESTING IN CHRIST WHO IS RIGHTEOUSNESS  
IN US**

Galatians 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but  
**Christ that lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live  
by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

By faith, we need to rest in Jesus and His Righteousness in us.  
Let Him live out of us ...

Colossians 1:27

*... Christ [is] in you, the hope of glory*

Romans 13:14

*But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

Jesus is with us.

He lives in us.

And we need to live resting in Him.

He wants to take our burdens and lighten our loads.

Matthew 11:29-30

*Take my yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am **gentle and lowly in heart**, and **you will find rest for your souls**. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

Jesus tells us to let Him do the work –

To take His yoke on us -

Submit to Him.

He wants to take our load.

Like the oxen yoked together - the big ox leading the younger one -

We can:

– rest in Him

– let Him take the lead

– submit to HIS way

Let Him take your burden ...

In this place we will find Rest in His Righteousness.

So this morning,

We have seen How we are Righteous in Christ's Righteousness.

That we can KNOW we are Righteous with His Righteousness.

And that He lives in us to BE that Righteousness IN US.

And we can REST HERE.

*When I was in my early teens, there were difficulties in the family ...  
And in the area I lived, there were beautiful country walks, some of  
which meandered by quiet streams.*

*I used to imagine myself sitting by these –  
Even alone –  
To enjoy the beauty, peace and quiet for a time ...  
And this is what I think of when I hear these verses ...*

Psalm 23:1-2 **SLIDE**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters ...*

But it's not natural rest we're talking about here.

It's spiritual rest

Rest in what Jesus has accomplished for us.

There's a place of rest for you -  
In Resting in Jesus' Righteousness.

**SLIDE** Keith Green song

**'When I hear The Praises Start'**

My son, My son, why are you striving  
You can't add one thing to what's been done for you  
I did it all while I was dying  
Rest in your faith, my peace will come to you

For when I hear the praises start  
I want to rain upon you  
Blessings that will fill your heart  
I see no stain upon you  
Because you are my child and you know me  
To Me you're only holy  
Nothing that you've done remains  
Only what you do for Me

## SUPPLEMENTARY

### JESUS ALSO FREED US FROM THE LAW'S DEMANDS

Rom 7:6 International Standard Version **SLIDE**

*... Now we have been released from the Law by dying to what enslaved us, so that we may serve in the new life of the Spirit, not under the old writings [the Law].*