

Message Five

The Righteousness of the Bride

JL Hymns: 20, 1311

Scripture Reading: Rev. 19:7-9; Matt. 5:20; 6:33; 22:2;
2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 1:7, 9; Rev. 15:3

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- Matt 22:2 The kingdom of the heavens has become like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.
- 2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God the Almighty! Righteous and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!

I. The righteousness of God is what God is in His action with respect to justice and righteousness—Rev. 15:3; Rom. 1:16b-17a; John 3:16; 1 John 1:9:

- Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God the Almighty! Righteous and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!
- Rom 1:16b ... for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.
- Rom 1:17a For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, ...
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- A. Our experience of Christ rests upon the foundation of God's righteousness.
- B. The foundation is God's righteousness, the unshakable foundation of God's throne—Psa. 89:14.
- Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.

II. There are four aspects of the definition of righteousness:

- A. Righteousness is to be right with persons, things, and matters before God according to His righteous and strict requirements—Matt. 5:20.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- B. Righteousness is the outward expression of the Christ who lives in us as the Spirit—2 Cor. 3:8-9:
- 2 Cor 3:8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory?
- 2 Cor 3:9 For if there is glory with the ministry of condemnation, much more the ministry of righteousness abounds with glory.
1. This is righteousness as God's image—Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
2. The ministry of righteousness is a ministry of the Lord's image—2 Cor. 3:9.
2 Cor 3:9 For if there is glory with the ministry of condemnation, much more the ministry of righteousness abounds with glory.
- C. Righteousness is a matter of God's kingdom—Matt. 6:33; Psalms 89:14:
Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
Psalms 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.
1. God's kingdom is righteousness.
 2. Righteousness is related to God's government, administration, and rule.
- D. Righteousness is a matter of our being right with God in our being—2 Cor. 5:21:
2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
1. To be right with God in our being is to have an inner being that is transparent and crystal clear, an inner being that is in the mind and will of God.
 2. This is a matter of our being the righteousness of God in Christ—v. 21.
2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

III. Righteousness is related to God's outward acts, ways, actions, and activities—Rev. 15:3:

- Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God the Almighty! Righteous and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!
- A. Everything God does is righteous—Rom. 1:16-17.
Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.
Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."
- B. Whatever God is in His justice and righteousness constitutes His righteousness.

IV. God is righteous in the blood of Jesus His Son—1 John 1:7, 9:

- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- A. God is faithful in His word (v. 10) and righteous in the blood of Jesus His Son.
1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- B. His word is the word of the truth of His gospel (Eph. 1:13), which tells us that He will forgive us our sins because of Christ (Acts 10:43); the blood of Christ has fulfilled His righteous requirements that He might forgive us our sins (Matt. 26:28).
Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
Acts 10:43 To this One all the prophets testify that through His name everyone who believes into Him will receive forgiveness of sins.
Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
- C. To forgive us is to release us from the offense of our sins, whereas to cleanse us is to wash us from the stain of our unrighteousness.

V. Righteousness is related to the kingdom of God—Rom. 14:17:

- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- A. The church life is the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of God is righteousness.
- B. God's throne is established with righteousness as the foundation—Psa. 89:14.
Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.
- C. Where God's righteousness is, there His kingdom is also—Isa. 32:1; Heb. 1:8-9.
Isa 32:1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, / And the rulers will rule according to justice.
Heb 1:8 But of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom."
Heb 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners";
- D. In the Old Testament, righteousness is often synonymous with the kingdom.
- E. Where there is righteousness, everything is headed up in a proper way; this is the kingdom.
- F. Righteousness first issues in the image of God, and then righteousness establishes the kingdom of God:
 - 1. In Romans 8 we have righteousness and God's image.
Rom 8 be omitted.
 - 2. In Romans 14 we have righteousness and God's kingdom.
Rom 14 be omitted.
 - 3. Both the image and the kingdom are based on righteousness.
- G. To say that righteousness will dwell in the new heavens and new earth (2 Pet. 3:13) means that everything will be in order, headed up, and regulated:
2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
 - 1. Everything will be governed, controlled, and under the proper rule, for the throne of God, the kingdom, the divine administration, will be there.
 - 2. The result will be peace and joy.

VI. In Revelation 19:7-8 we see the righteousness of the bride:

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- A. There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers:
 - 1. The first aspect is to be the believers' righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ—Rom. 3:24-26; Acts 13:39; Gal. 3:24b, 27.
Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
Rom 3:25 Whom God set forth as a propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God passed over the sins that had previously occurred,
Rom 3:26 With a view to the demonstrating of His righteousness in the present time, so that He might be righteous and the One who justifies him who is of the faith of Jesus.
Acts 13:39 And from all the things from which you were not able to be justified by the law of Moses, in this One everyone who believes is justified.
Gal 3:24b [the law]... unto Christ that we might be justified out of faith.
Gal 3:27 For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 - 2. The second aspect is to be the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively—Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24a; James 2:24; Matt. 5:20; Rev. 19:8.
Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.

- 1 Pet 2:24a Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; ...
- James 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith only.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
3. As our objective righteousness, Christ is the One in whom we are justified by God—Rom. 3:24, 28; 4:25; 5:1, 9, 16, 18.
- Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
- Rom 3:28 For we account that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.
- Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.
- Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified in His blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.
- Rom 5:16 And it is not that as through one who sinned, so also the free gift is; for the judgment was out of one offense unto condemnation, but the gracious gift is out of many offenses unto justification.
- Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
4. As our subjective righteousness, Christ is the One dwelling in us to live for us a life that can be justified by God and that is always acceptable to God—Matt. 5:6, 20.
- Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- B. Christ lived out of the saints as their subjective righteousness becomes their wedding garment—Rev. 19:8:
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
1. The righteousness we received for our salvation is objective and enables us to meet the requirement of the righteous God, whereas the righteousnesses of the overcoming saints are subjective and enable them to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ—1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9.
- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
2. The wedding garment in Matthew 22:11-12 signifies the Christ whom we live out and who is expressed through us in our daily living as our surpassing righteousness—5:20; Rev. 3:4-5, 18.
- Matt 22:11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining at table, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment,
- Matt 22:12 And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
- Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
- Rev 3:4 But you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they will walk with Me in white because they are worthy.
- Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

- C. The Lord's bride, His wife, "has made herself ready. And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints"—19:7b-8:
1. Revelation 19:8 clearly associates clothing with righteousness.
 Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
 2. The word *righteousnesses* in verse 8 is plural and can be translated as "righteous acts."
 Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
 3. The righteousnesses do not refer to Christ as our righteousness, whom we received for our salvation—1 Cor. 1:30.
 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
 4. The fine linen indicates our overcoming life, our overcoming living.
 5. The fine linen is the Christ whom we live out of our being.
- D. "Blessed are they [the overcoming saints] who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb"—Rev. 19:9:
1. The marriage dinner of the Lamb here is the wedding feast in Matthew 22:2.
 Matt 22:2 The kingdom of the heavens has become like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.
 2. To be called to the marriage dinner of Christ is to be blessed.
 3. The overcoming believers, who will be called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb, will also be the bride of the Lamb—Rev. 19:7.
 Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.