

Romans 1:16-17 NKJV *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

- "it" in vs. 17 = the gospel
- The message, or the story of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Two Aspect of "The Righteousness of God" in this verse

1. God's righteousness
 - a) The "integrity, virtue, purity and rightness of God
 - b) the Gospel reveals God's righteousness by showing us that it was out of his mercy he has provided a way of salvation for us
 - c) He paid for us our debt – this reveals His character
 - d) The gospel also reveals the righteousness of God by displaying His character in the life of Jesus
 - Sinless
 - Selfless sacrifice
 - e) Jesus' life, death and resurrections shows us HOW GOOD GOD IS = His righteousness
2. The Gospel reveals the righteousness that God offers and expects from mankind
 - a) It defines what God expects from us and how God makes us right
 - b) Romans 1:17 NLT This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."
 - c) Righteousness:
 - "State of him who is as he ought to be"
 - "The condition acceptable to God"
 - "Integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling and acting
 - (Earlier we saw the gospel as demonstrating God's character – now we are seeing this as defining the character God expects from us.)

Illustration

1. Bend a piece of metal pipe (conduit)
 - a) Iniquity, or sin, is comparable to being "bent out of proper shape" -- deformed in a sense, or broken
 - b) The pipe does not have the power to change
 - c) Yelling at the pipe does no good
 - d) I might be able to bend the pipe back, but I could never get it "as new"
 - e) Some forces can make us "better" but God demands perfection equal to his righteousness
 - f) Requires a rebirth – for the pipe, it would be to melt it and reform it
2. Stick or Branch
 - a) What is more complex a stick or a human (physical and spiritual)
 - b) Break the stick

- c) No technology could ever make the stick like new – it would take a miracle
- d) How much more of a miracle to repair a broken person!!!!
- e) The point – we need the supernatural intervention of the Gospel
 - To make us new
 - To make us “born again”
 - Even more, the Gospel, makes us UNBREAKABLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

“From Faith to Faith ... The just shall live by faith”

1. **Habakkuk 2:4** NKJV *“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.”* Quoted three times in the New Testament:
 - a) Here in **Romans 1:17**
 - b) **Galatians 3:11** NKJV *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”*
 - c) **Hebrews 10:38** NKJV *NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.”*
2. Based on the promise to Abraham **Romans 4:3** NKJV *For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”*
3. What does “from faith to faith” mean
 - a) Not a progression, as in “from glory to glory” found elsewhere in the Bible
 - b) But rather faith is:
 - The beginning and end of righteousness
 - It is the foundation and the culmination of the gospel
 - We never grow beyond faith
 - The righteousness required, expected and demonstrated by God can only come “by faith”
 - It is not from faith to works
 - Faith is REVEALED by works
 - **James 2:17-18** NKJV *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*
 - Works are to SHOW [reveal] the faith that exists within
 - But it is always our faith that makes us RIGHT with God and enables our works to be acceptable and not merely the evidence of SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

The gospel is the righteousness of God

- It demonstrates God's character
- It reveals God's requirements for mankind
- It is the means (start to finish) of attaining personal righteousness
- The Gospel is how we become as we “ought to be”
- The Gospel is how we become who we were created to be, and do what we were created to do

End with a call to accept the Gospel ...