

GOD'S EVERLASTING STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS HIS MORAL LAW!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this article.

Psalms 119:172: - "My tongue shall speak of thy word: **for all thy commandments [are] righteousness.**"

If Israel had hearkened unto the Redeemer's Commandments, then their righteousness would have been as the waves of the sea. (Clearly Righteousness **IS** obeying God's Commandments.)

Isaiah 48:17 & 18: - "**Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel;** I [am] the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way [that] thou shouldest go. **O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments!** then had thy peace been as a river, **and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.**"

CHRIST LOVES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATES LAWLESSNESS: -

Hebrews 1:8 & 9: - "**But unto the Son [he saith],** Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom. **Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;** therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."

NOTE: - The Greek word that is translated as "iniquity" is the word "anomia" – See Strong's Concordance; Greek, No. 458. It is defined as "lawlessness". ¹ This prophecy referring to Christ also teaches us that Righteousness and Lawlessness are opposites.

Christ the Good Shepherd leads his people in the paths of righteousness, and they follow him in that righteousness pathway.

John 10:14 & 27: - "**I am the good shepherd,** and know my [sheep], and am known of mine. ... **My sheep hear my voice,** and I know them, **and they follow me.**"

Psalms 23:1 & 3: - "**The LORD [is] my shepherd;** I shall not want. ... He restoreth my soul: **he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**"

The Lord loves the person who follows after righteousness. They are truly his sheep.

Proverbs 15:9: - "The way of the wicked [is] an abomination unto the LORD: **but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.**"

THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH AND THE BRINGING IN OF EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS: -

¹ A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by Walter Bauer, page 71.

One of the things to be achieved within the 70 Weeks prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah was to bring in Everlasting Righteousness. (In other words, the Messiah was to help repentant sinners to keep God's Law of Everlasting Righteousness.)

Daniel 9:24: - **"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."**

Christ's bearing our sins upon the cross was for the purpose that we should be dead to sin, and live unto righteousness.

1 Peter 2:24: - **"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."**

Because God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, those who walk after the Spirit shall have the righteousness of the Law fulfilled in their lives.

Romans 8:3 & 4: - **"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."**

When we have been justified – that is, freed from sin, we become servants of righteousness.

Romans 6:17 & 18: - **"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."**

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS – IT WILL NOT BE ABOLISHED: -

The following unambiguous passages leave us in no doubt that God's Righteousness **IS** Everlasting, and that it shall **NOT** be abolished. It shall endure even when the present heavens and earth shall pass away.

Psalms 111:3: - **"His work [is] honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever."**

Psalms 112:9: - **"He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour."**

NOTE: - The apostle Paul quotes this passage from the book of Psalms in his 2nd epistle to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 9:9: - **"(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever."**

Psalms 119:142: - **"Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and thy law [is] the truth."**

Isaiah 51:6 - 8: - **"Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart [is] my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation."**

With the background of all these plain teachings of the Scriptures, the following unambiguous statement from the lips of Jesus Christ in his Sermon on the Mount, was merely repeating what the prophets had already written in the Old Testament writings. Not the smallest part of God's Righteousness – his Moral Law is to pass away while heaven and earth remain. Jesus was **NOT** giving a new teaching in this statement.

Matthew 5:17 - 19: - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. **For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

☞ **Therefore it would be logical that as God's Law is Righteousness, a righteous person is someone who obeys this Righteous Law. And that is exactly what we do find in our next SECTION.**

A RIGHTEOUS PERSON BIBLICALLY DEFINED: -

The apostle John unambiguously defines a righteous person as someone who **DOES** righteousness.

1 John 3:7: - "Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**"

The prophet David teaches us that a righteous person has God's law in his or her heart.

Psalms 37:30 & 31: - "The mouth of **the righteous** speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. **The law of his God [is] in his heart;** none of his steps shall slide."

The prophet Isaiah informs us that a person who knows righteousness has God's Law in their heart.

Isaiah 51:7: - "Hearken unto me, **ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart [is] my law;** fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings."

☞ These last two references directly are referring to the fulfillment of one of the promises that the Lord has made in the New Covenant – that he will write his Laws in the hearts and minds of his people.

Hebrews 8:10: - "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."

QUESTION: - If God's Law of Everlasting Righteousness is written within the hearts and minds of the righteous, are the individual Commandments of God's Law actually obeyed by the righteous?

ANSWER: - YES!!!

Paul taught that obedience from the heart to the true doctrine of the gospel makes us servants of righteousness.

Romans 6:17 & 18: - "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, **but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.** Being then made free from sin, **ye became the servants of righteousness.**"

In the following New Testament passage from the pen of Luke, the parents of John the Baptist are both described as being righteous before God, walking in obedience to **ALL** of God's Commandments and Ordinances, blamelessly.

(For those Christians who teach that God's Law cannot be kept, this New Testament Scripture exposes their teaching as being unbiblical.)

Luke 1:5 & 6: - "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, **a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**"

WORKING RIGHTEOUSNESS: -

It makes no difference if we are a Jew or a Gentile; God will accept all those who fear him and work righteousness regardless of their nationality. Such is the teaching of the apostle Peter.

Acts 10:34 & 35: - "Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**"

The person who works righteousness will abide in God's Holy habitation.

Psalms 15:1 & 2: - "**LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?** He that walketh uprightly, **and worketh righteousness**, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

If a wicked person repents and turns from all their sins, and does that which is lawful and right, keeping all of God's statutes, he shall not die but live. He shall live because of the righteousness that he has done. (Doing what is lawful and right, that is, obeying God's Law **IS** the righteousness that he has done.)

Ezekiel 18:21 & 22: - "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, **and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.** All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: **in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.**"

The godly people of old worked righteousness **through** faith.

Hebrews 11:32 - 34: - "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and [of] Barak, and [of] Samson, and [of] Jephthae; [of] David also, and Samuel, and [of] the prophets: **Who through faith** subdued kingdoms, **wrought righteousness**, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."

Every person who is born of God **DOES** righteousness.

1 John 2:29: - "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that **every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.**"

The apostle Paul taught that if the uncircumcised Gentiles keep the righteousness of God's Law, they are more worthy in God's eyes, than a circumcised Jew who does not keep God's Righteous Law.

Romans 2:26 & 27: - "Therefore **if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law**, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? **And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law**, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?"

NOTE: - This passage removes the so-called objection that God's Righteous Law was only intended to be kept by the Jews. The uncircumcised mentioned in the above passage can only be applying to the Gentiles. And in context, the Law being referred to is the Moral Law of Ten Commandments.

Romans 2:21 - 23: - "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest **a man should not steal, dost thou steal?** Thou that sayest **a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit**

adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?"

NB: - In VS. 21 & 22 Paul is clearly referring to Stealing, Committing Adultery and Idolatry. He is therefore referring to the 8th, 7th & 1st and 2nd Commandments of the Ten Commandment Law respectively – See Exodus 20:3 - 6, 14 & 15.

AT THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST THE HEAVENS SHALL DECLARE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS: -

Psalms 50:3 - 6: - **"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.** He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. **And the heavens shall declare his righteousness:** for God [is] judge himself. Selah."

Psalms 97:3 - 6: - **"A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory."**

The following statement from the pen of inspiration comments upon the fulfilment of this prophecy.

1884 Great Controversy, pp. pages 456 & 457: - **"While these words of holy trust ascend to God, the clouds sweep back, and the starry heavens are seen, unspeakably glorious in contrast with the black and angry firmament on either side. The glory of Heaven is beaming from the gates ajar. Then there appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. The hand opens the tables, and there are revealed the precepts of the decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. Memory is aroused, the darkness of superstition and heresy is swept from every mind, and God's ten words, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of earth. Wonderful code! wonderful occasion!"**

PROVERBS 12:28: - "IN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS [IS] LIFE; AND [IN] THE PATHWAY [THEREOF THERE IS] NO DEATH."