

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

JEREMIAH 23

Text: Jeremiah 23:6

Jeremiah 23:6

⁶In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Introduction:

As we consider the next name for God – we'll see His righteousness and holiness and His provision for us to be in pursuit of Him instead of perfection before man.

Note:

1. THE SETTING

When Jeremiah spoke this prophecy, the kingdom of Judah was about to fall. More than 100 years earlier, the 10 tribes of Israel had been taken captive never to return because of their infidelity towards God and Judah was on the threshold of joining their misery because they had sinned even more grievously than the kingdom to the north.

Judah was in the shape of many Christian lives today.

They were on the roller coaster ride spiritually speaking; serving God for a few years and then serving other gods.

Depending on who was king (on the throne) it would determine whether or not they followed God. If an evil king ruled, then Judah would follow in sin, but if a good king ruled, then they experienced reform and awakening.

Your spiritual condition with God always is directly related to the ruler you have established on the throne of your life.

At this point in Judah's journey, the people had once again turned from God and were pursuing the lead of Zedekiah – the successor of Josiah who cast aside the godly reforms and pursued a way that seemed right to him. Not even a generation had passed and God was once again cast to the side and forgotten.

It's amazing and scary how quickly we're capable of turning from righteousness to sin – how quickly we can run from the church singing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" to humming, "My Way"

God's patience wore thin and He called Jeremiah to give them warning of what was going to happen if they didn't turn back to Him.

God too has given us words of warning.

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. THE SOURCE

The word Tsidkenu means “still or straight” – it’s a standard of measurement – our sinful nature is measured against God’s holy nature.

Note:

A. The Perfection of God

The source of all righteousness is Jehovah. He is the one and only who is perfectly righteous.

He is without sin – holy, holy, holy

Psalms 5:4

⁴ For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

We must come to understand is the God is righteous, holy and just, and that our lives are measured by the standard of His righteous.

B. The Defection of Man (Caused by the infection of sin)

The contrast to God's righteousness is man's unrighteousness and propensity for evil. Whereas God is holy man is sinful.

What the psalmist pens in Ps. 14:3, Paul reiterates in Rom. 3:10.

Psalms 14:3

³They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:10

¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

All of our righteousness are filthy rags.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Because of sine the ability to be perfect is gone. There isn't one person who has ever been or will ever be perfect.

But the provision of the Saviour makes it possible for us to be declared righteous.

Through Christ we have been declared righteous – set apart from sin unto God and called to holiness – called to keep ourselves separated from sin.

3. THE SIGNIFICANCE

The Lord is our righteousness – He provides through the cross everything we need to set us free from sin and bring us into a righteous relationship with Him.

If the Lord is our righteousness then we cannot obtain it through our own ability or ingenuity – it is imputed.

The same grace that saves us is the same grace that sustains and keeps us. I share this because until we understand that God is our righteousness we will pursue a relationship with God less than what He has desires for us.

Too many today are content with being just good enough Christians.

Close:

As followers of Christ, we've been set apart for a higher call – a life of holiness.

It is not a life of Good Enough Christianity but a call to Spiritually Alive Christianity.

It's not a call to a perfection that can't be humanly obtained, but a call to the pursuit of perfection that can be experienced by grace through faith.

Holiness is not being perfect – it is resting in God's perfection and abiding in what He is doing through faith and obedience to the work and Word of God.

And this is only possible because He is the Lord our Righteousness.