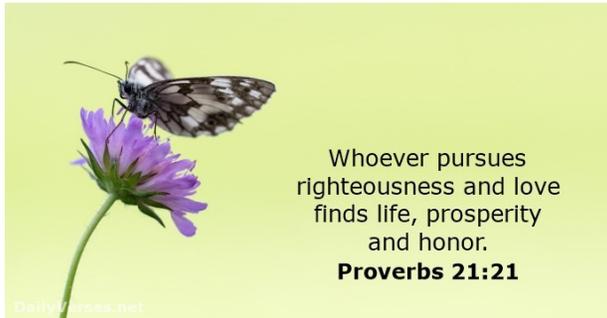


Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God. Here is a simple prayer that may will help you strengthen your commitment to God.



Lord,
I live in a wicked and unrighteous world,
I am often surrounded by all kinds of evil and it is not
easy staying true but Lord
I want your righteousness
to me my righteousness.
I want your truth to be my truth.
I want your path to be my path.
Keep me covered in the blood of Jesus
all the days of my life.
Each day as I put on the breastplate of righteousness I
declare it is for you I take my life's stand.
I pray for _____* to live a righteous life in
Christ and always have your protection and guidance.
The Righteous will live by faith and I declare my faith in
you and will serve no other. I stand righteous and
forgiven by your love and your eternal power. Today like
everyday I live for you.
Amen ¹

*put the name of Wife, Husband, Child, Friend, Relative

1. RICK STEDMAN "PRAYING THE ARMOR OF GOD" 2015 HARVEST HOUSE
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RIGHTEOUS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

Abstract art, I recognize it when I see it but I have to be honest I do not understand it in the least. I read an article the other day that said abstract art was on the way back in. In, out, It still is a complete mystery to me. I think that is how most people view righteousness. They don't understand it but they recognize it when they see it.



Paul tells us in Ephesians 6.14 that righteousness is part of the Armor that the believer is to put on everyday to go out and face the enemy. Righteousness alone will not cut it but it must be part of the whole armor the believer is to wear.

If we are going to understand righteousness for the individual we need to understand it on two levels. First from God's point of view, and second from man's point of view.

GOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Read Deuteronomy 32.4 What do we learn about God here? What does that mean to you?

- Read Psalm 7.11 What is one role of the righteousness of God? (this will be important shortly.)

- ❑ How does God qualify as the one to fill this role?

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MAN

- ❑ Read Romans 3.10 How widespread is the unrighteousness of humanity? Give some examples that demonstrate this fact.

- ❑ Read Jeremiah 17.9 What is the root of the problem?

- ❑ Read Isaiah 64.6 What is the value of our own righteousness?

- ❑ Read Genesis 8.21 Rick Steadman calls this the natural inclination toward evil.¹ How does God describe the situation? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

NOTE: This says from youth and not birth. This is a very important Biblical distinction and should be noted for later study. This verse with Psalms 51.5 changes the theology of sin as taught by most theologians.

RIGHTEOUSNESS MAINTAINED

- ❑ A person becomes righteous as a gift from God through the sacrifice of Jesus for their sins by being justified or made innocent. They are responsible to maintain the righteousness by remaining innocent or not sinning against God.
- ❑ Read 2 Timothy 3.16 What can the believer do to maintain their righteousness on a day to day basis?

- ❑ Read 2 Timothy 4.8 What is the results of a righteous life?

- ❑ Read 1 Peter 3.12 What is a benefit of a righteous life? What would be the results of not remaining righteous?

- ❑ Read 2 Peter 3.13 What is the ultimate goal of living a righteous life?

- ❑ Read 1 John 1.9 How should this verse strengthen our commitment to Jesus.

- ❑ Read Romans 1.17 What is a key to our living a righteous life?

- ❑ Read Romans 6.23 Why is the sacrifice of Jesus so important to the believer?

- ❑ Read Romans 3.26 Why is the righteousness of God needed to justify (declare righteous or innocent) the individual?

- ❑ What does the individual have to do to receive this great gift from God?

- ❑ Read Romans 3.27-28 What is the key to our freedom and righteousness?

- ❑ Read Romans 4.1-3 How does Paul show the strength of what he has just taught through the life of Abraham?

- ❑ Read Romans 5.1 How do we become righteous?

- ❑ Read Romans 5.8-9 What is the result of our gift of Righteousness?

- ❑ Read Ephesians 6.14 Why is the breastplate of righteousness over the heart of the believer?

To understand righteousness we need to clearly define two words, Righteousness and Justification. These two words are linked together in the life of every person who lives under the directions and purpose of God. The best way to understand these words is in a courtroom setting. In fact that is where both of our English words come from. In a court of law a person was either guilty or innocent. The process for making the decision was call justifying and if the person was innocent they were declared righteous. When this is translated into religious terms it is very different but has the same implications. Paul writes about this in great detail in the book of Romans.

JUSTIFIED RIGHTEOUS

- ❑ Read Romans 3.9-18 What are the key qualities of the unrighteous? How widespread is this problem?

- ❑ Read Romans 3.19-20
- ❑ Vs. 19 Who does God hold “accountable” to His judgment of righteousness?

Vs. 20 The Law described here is the whole Old Testament including the 613 different commandments) which are divided into four parts. 1. Civic Laws 2. Ceremonial Laws 3. Rabbinic Laws 4. Moral Laws) Can following the Old Testament Law make a person right with God?

What does Paul say the purpose of all the Laws is?

Read 1 Timothy 1.9-10 What is the purpose or intention of the Law? Who does it apply to?

Read Romans 3.21-22

Vs. 21 What do we know about the righteousness of God?

Vs. 22 How does the believer receive their righteousness?

Does the righteousness of the believer have anything to do with the Law?

Read Romans 3.23 What is a fact everyone must face if they are going to be honest with themselves and with God?

Read Romans 3. 24 How did God make it possible for a person to be justified or declared righteous (innocent) if they cannot earn it by following the law?

Read Romans 3.25 & John 19.17-18 Since there is no way for us to be made righteous by our actions how did God take care of this for us?

Why was it important that this be done publicly?

What does God do with our sins after we have accepted Jesus' sacrifice for us?

What righteousness is used to deal with our sins?