

The Baptist Defence

Hear ye my defence . . . Acts 22:1

First Baptist Church - Harrison, Ohio - Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

August, 2011

Your Righteousness Is Showing

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe



Hebrews 1:8 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.

Certainly some may object to my using in the title of this article "Your Righteousness." Of course, the righteousness that we have as God's children is not by any means our righteousness except for the fact that the righteousness that we have is imputed to us individually and is specifically for each believer. Our righteousnesses, of course, are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).

The primary purpose of this short article is to remind ourselves that in this life, saved by God's grace, we are responsible for the righteousness which has been imputed unto us, a righteousness that is perfect, because it is the righteousness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

AN EXCEEDING RIGHTEOUSNESS

If one claims to have God's righteousness, it must be one that exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees. Matt. 5:20 *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

This righteousness of the saved cannot be manifested as a mere human righteousness,

because the righteousness that we have originated from Heaven from the heart and purpose of God, and this is the righteousness that we must show in our personal lives.

A FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS

This perfect righteousness comes by way of faith through the grace of God. This faith is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8-10).

And he (Abraham) believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. (Gen. 15:6). This righteousness cannot be gained by human effort, ecclesiastical proclamation, or religious rite.

So many people today are doing righteousness, but it cannot be obtained by doing. It can be obtained only by a gift from God. God is the owner and dispenser of it.

Faith which is engineered and executed by God is a true faith, one which surrenders to the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ and receives him as personal and sovereign Savior.

Those who genuinely believe in Jesus Christ and his work on Calvary, his shed blood, his death, burial, and resurrection are saved unto the uttermost (Heb. 7:25).

The longer a man lies in the dirt, the dirtier he will become.

A WORKING RIGHTEOUSNESS

And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us, (Deut. 6:25).

Perfect righteousness is imputed (credited to) each true believer in Jesus Christ, but that righteousness is to be manifested in our lives—and I believe it will be unless we have believed in vain (1 Cor. 15:2).

Therefore, Paul the Apostle instructs us to work out the salvation that has been worked in us by the power of God. He says in Philippians 2:12-13, *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SHOWING

Remember that it is not of ourselves that we show our righteousness but rather as we surrender to our Lord that we can manifest his great righteousness.

Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine

heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, (Deut. 9:5).

When we surrender to Christ as our Savior and Lord, we surrender to his scepter of righteousness, the scepter of his kingdom (Heb. 1:8). Thus, we believe, thus we work, thus we speak, thus we continue on in his way.

Believe me, for I know, that people watch your life; and they know your righteousness or lack thereof. The lost world does not have this righteousness which flows as a river of water, but they do recognize it when they see it in us.

Do not forget that God will always remember your works of righteousness. In this we show our faith in Christ. *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works,* (James 2:18).

Yes, your righteousness is showing. Those days when you do what is good, good works in which we are to be rich (1 Tim. 6:18), people notice; but most importantly, God notices.

God will not forget your works, for he is writing a book of remembrance, *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.* (Mal 3:16).

Let us do more in our lives that brings glory to our God, thus manifesting that righteousness that God has so graciously imputed to us that we may be vessels of honor. Ω

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The Baptist Defence is published under the authority of First Baptist Church, 119 S. Hill Street, P. O. Box 201, Harrison, OH 45030.

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All articles are written from a Baptist position, and no apology is given for this. May God receive the honor and glory.

Lights In The World

By Ronnie Wolfe – March 4, 2011

Ye are lights inside the world
Where depths of truth are now unfurled.
Ye are the lights in place of God
Reflecting light upon this sod.

May God in kindness give us grace
To shine our light within this place
And show our light is not the same
As in the world to which He came.

But shines from Heaven's own blissful land
The truth of God within our hand,
Sending out as rays of light
The truth of God both day and night.



The Bluegrass Boys Quartet and the Kittle Family had a wonderful time of praise and fellowship at Warren Missionary Baptist Church in Warren, Michigan, on June 17, 2011. We were reacquainted with people we had not seen in many years. The quartet will be here at First Baptist Church on November 19, 2011, at 7 :00 PM, Lord willing.

Two Online Classes Offered At Antioch Baptist College

Teacher: Dr. Ronnie Wolfe



- Apply and register for classes
- Sign in to class on the appropriate day and time
- Days and times have not yet been set
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Classes begin August 30, 2011

For More Information

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Why? Why? Why?

Why is it that change is inevitable in everything except a vending machine?

Why is it that a bus you are chasing runs twice as fast as one in which you are riding?

Why is it that I can go to a ball game, sit outside in the night air, climb stairs to get to my seat and have a grand time, but I cannot sit in a comfortable, air-conditioned church on Sunday night? *Copied*

E-mails And Web Site Address

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Gospel Singing November 19, 2011 - 7:00 PM

Join us in a wonderful time of praise and fellowship at First Baptist Church, 119 S. Hill Street, Harrison, Ohio, on November 19, 2011, at 7:00 PM. The OLD Bluegrass Boys, including Bob Jones, Ronnie Wolfe, Bobby Lakes, and Carl Morton, will be singing. Also, the Kittle Family will be singing, along with other mixtures of the people pictured above.

Be sure to be here early in order to get a good seat. Bring the children: they will enjoy the singing, also. The singing will last between 1 1/2 to 2 hours. An elevator is available for those who need it. We are looking forward to a good attendance and a great time praising our God.



The Trail of Blood -Evangelist Bob Jones **November 20-23, 2011**

Sunday through Wednesday will be an exciting time of learning about our Baptist heritage as Bro. Bob Jones preaches on the subject of Baptist history using the popular little book entitled "The Trail of Blood," by J. M. Carroll. Everyone who comes will get notes and a free book. Come to learn and enjoy.