

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 6:14b**

**Lesson #48**

**Righteousness**

**07/15/2018**

**"Jesus loves me this I doubt  
for my sins he has  
found out. Spotless  
saints to him belong.  
He hates the weak  
and loves the strong.**

**Does Jesus love me?  
Does Jesus love me?  
Does Jesus love me?  
I really do not know!**

1

## The Bible tells me so!

### Romans 2

"<sup>9</sup> There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, <sup>10</sup> but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God."

### James 2:10

"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."

2

"Get rid of this bunkum about the 'carnal Christian.' Forget it! If you're carnal, you're not saved."

**Leonard Ravenhill**  
(British evangelist)

3

## The Judgment of God

1. The holiness of God is the basis on which the whole Biblical story rests.
2. The Holy Spirit was given to empowers us to obey the Law.
3. The Epistles consistently indicate that all of us will be judged on the basis of our works, not our faith.

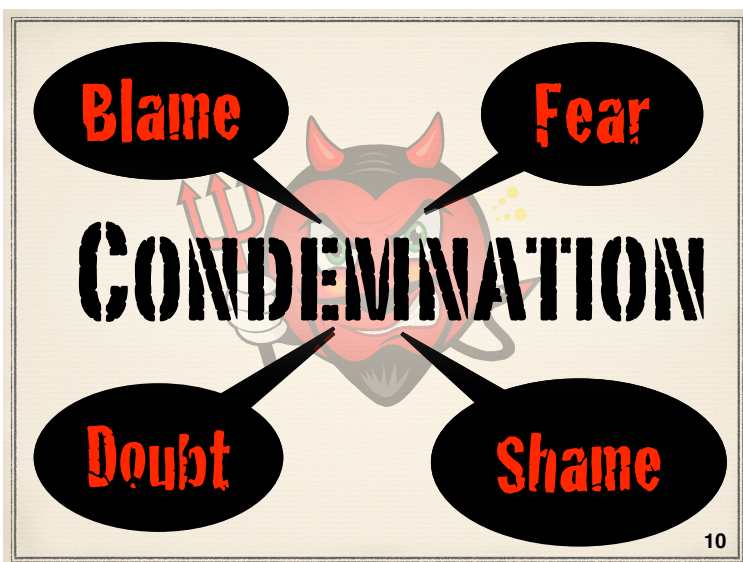
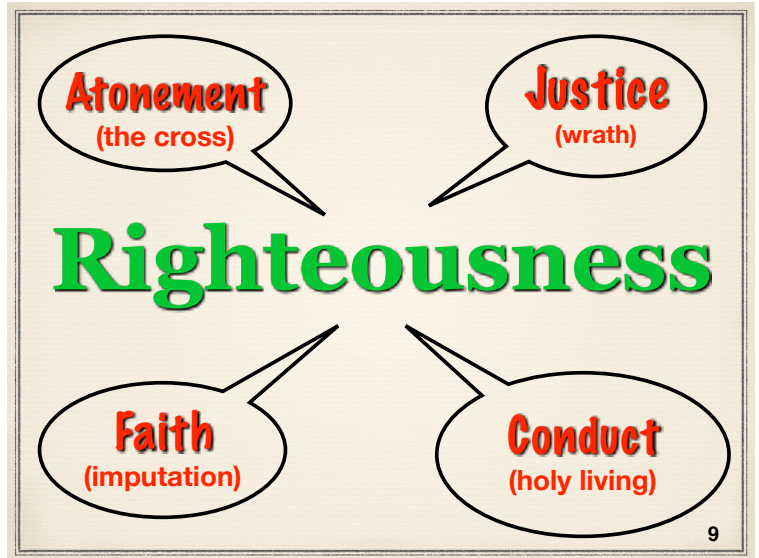
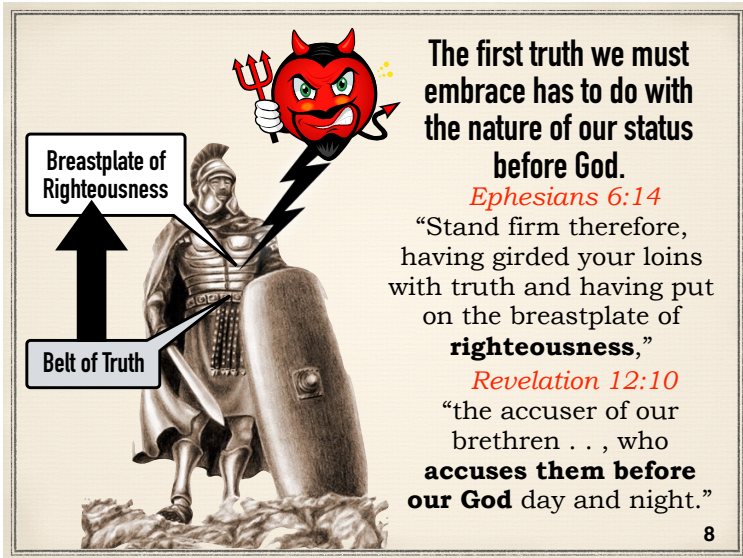
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"A Christian cannot live in known sin and remain in a saving relationship with Christ."

**John N. Oswalt**  
(Wesley Biblical Seminary)

5







“Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It’s the fear that we’re not good enough

Brene Brown



12

# shame

is God’s tool before the Cross

and Satan’s tool after.

13

“We’re tired of the national conversation centering on “What should we fear?” and “Who should we blame?”.”

Brene Brown



14

### Revelation 12

<sup>10</sup> Now the salvation, and the power, and kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

<sup>11</sup> For **they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”

- The believer’s defense against Satan rests on:
  - 1) the finished work of Christ on the Cross,
  - 2) their confession of faith in that fact,
  - 3) and a freedom from the fear of death.

15

“So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: ‘I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!’”

Martin Luther



16

Luther made a distinction between:

“active righteousness”

and

“passive righteousness”.

Martin Luther



17



“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness.  
Better still,  
Christ is our holiness.”

Charles Spurgeon



18

Is the Gospel story  
all about me or about Christ?



- ✓ my faith
- ✓ my faithfulness
- ✓ my fruitfulness
- ✓ my fulfillment

19

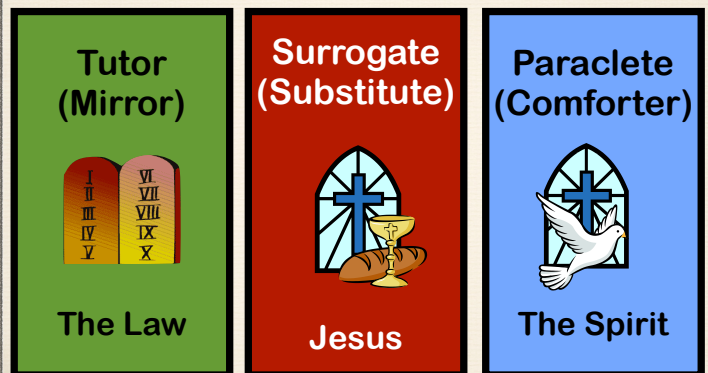
“Me” centered religion  
is preoccupied with:



- ✓ This temporal life
- ✓ Spiritual experience
- ✓ Holy Spirit power
- ✓ Ministry results
- ✓ Ethics in action
- ✓ Practical application

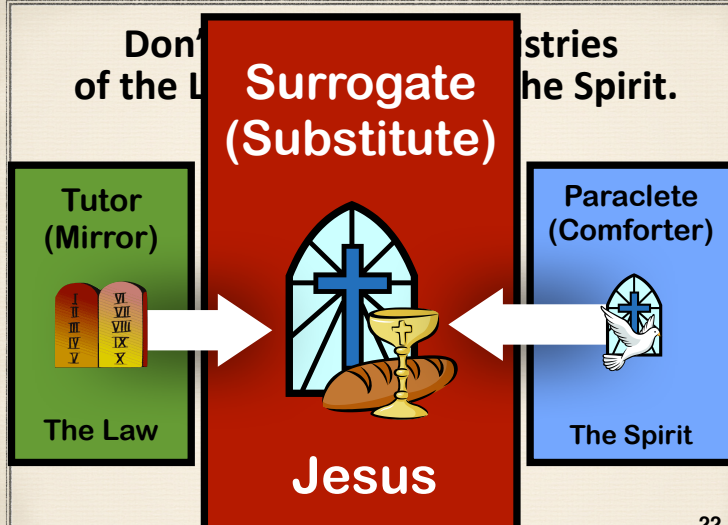
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Don't confuse the ministries  
of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



21

Don't confuse the ministries  
of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

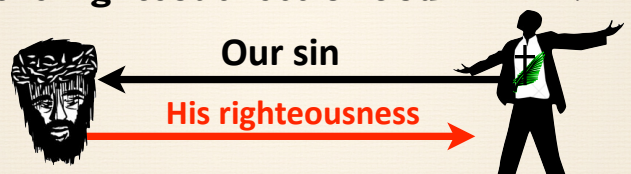


22

**The great exchange**

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become **the righteousness of God in Him.**”



Is this Christ's life lived out through  
or **imputed** to the believer?

Is this by us or for us?

23



## "Me" centered religion makes us vulnerable to:



- ✓ Fear
- ✓ Guilt and shame
- ✓ Pride
- ✓ Jealousy
- ✓ Superficial judgment

24

## "Practiced holiness" for salvation raises difficult questions.



- ✓ How holy do I have to be and for how long?
- ✓ How does Christianity differ from Judaism?
- ✓ What is the meaning of the Cross?
- ✓ In what sense is the Gospel good news?

255

## As Christians we are holy in two senses:

### Our position

through what Christ has done for us.

This makes us fit for heaven.

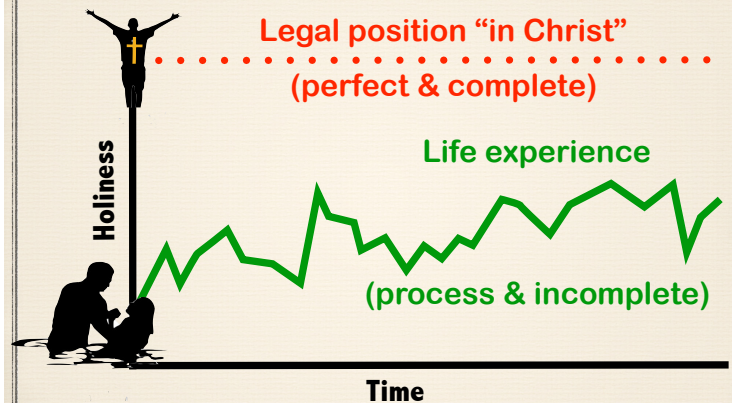
### Our practice

through what the Spirit can do in & through us.

This makes us fit for earth.

26

## The two aspects of holiness



27

### Ephesians 5

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partakers with them (the sons of disobedience); <sup>8</sup> for you were formerly darkness, but now **you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light** <sup>9</sup> (for the **fruit of the light** consists in all **goodness and righteousness and truth**),”

- “**Righteousness**” is linked to “truth” as in 6:14.
- Believers are called, **going forward**, to “walk as children of light” knowing that they “**are** light in the Lord” and sealed as such (1:13).

28



UNC students  
can root for Duke without losing  
their student  
status at UNC  
but that would be unnatural.

29





The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.



**This had to do with his official position not his personal character.**

30

## *The Corinthian church*

- ✓ “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, **saints** by calling . . .” *1 Corinthians 1:2*
- ✓ “for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not **walking like mere men.**”  
*1 Corinthians 3:3*

31

## *1 Peter 3*

“<sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; . . . <sup>21</sup> . . . **baptism now saves you** — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

32

## *Romans 4*

“<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who **justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness**, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God **reckons righteousness** apart from works: <sup>7</sup> “*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered.*” <sup>8</sup> *Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.*”

33

## **How to wear the breastplate of righteousness**

- **Take your baptism seriously**, put off the old self and put on the new.
- Understand the “**Word of the Cross**”.
- Embrace **imputed** righteousness.
- Respect the **distinction** between the roles of the Law, Jesus, and Spirit.
- Don’t let an **undisciplined lifestyle** give Satan a foothold.

34

## *1 Corinthians 1*

“<sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block**, and to Gentiles **foolishness**, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God and the wisdom of God.**”

35