



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

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The High Cost of Salvation

Jeremy Northrop

Mark 10:45 says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Webster defines ransom as "a consideration paid or demanded for the release of someone or something from captivity." In a spiritual sense, Jesus releases man from the captivity of sin. People might say they do not feel like they are in captivity or bondage. Others might say they did not know Jesus was a ransom given for their redemption. However, in consideration of certain biblical truths, one can most definitely say Jesus is a ransom offered so mankind can have spiritual freedom from the guilt of sin.

Romans 3:23 says, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Sin is defined in scripture in many ways: (1) doing something in any motivation except for faith is sin (Romans 14:23); (2) not doing what a person knows he or she should be doing is sin (James 4:17); (3) breaking God's law is sin (1 John 3:4); and (4) all unrighteousness is sin (1 John 4:16). The point of focus in Romans 3:23 is not necessarily what sin is but rather all men have sinned. There is not a person in this world who has not transgressed the law of God in one way or another. In Romans 6:23, Paul says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." This brings to light the idea that everyone is in bondage to sin. Sin leads to death — eternal death — or eternal separation from God. The debt of sin is death.

The good news is the debt of sin has been paid. Someone has died in place of every man. God sent His Son into the world so that everyone can be saved (John 3:16). The writer of the

book of Hebrews said, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). Jesus went to the cross and died so no one else would have to pay the debt of sin. More than that, He gave up equality with God so every person who has ever lived on earth would have the opportunity of salvation or reconciliation with God (Philippians 2:5-11). **This is what Jesus did for you! What will you do for Jesus?**

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

The Righteousness of God

Roger D. Campbell

A study of God's characteristics is so eye-opening. It causes us to be in awe of Him, strengthens our faith, and humbles us as we strive to live for His glory. "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable" (Psalm 145:3).

In the Bible, the expression "the righteousness of God" sometimes refers to the way that God makes men righteous, that is, God's system of justifying men (Romans 1:16,17). However, in our current study, when we speak about "the righteousness of God," we have reference to His personal righteous nature.

The Bible declares, "Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful" (Psalm 116:5). How righteous is God? "The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works" (Psalm 145:17).

In the New Testament, the Greek word "δικαιος/ dikaios" is translated into English as "just" and "righteous." What does that Greek word mean? In reference to humans, its definition is: "in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God" [Thayer, word 1342 via e-Sword]. When applied to God, the word "δικαιος/dikaios" means, "...rendering to each his due; and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others..." [Thayer, Ibid]. Another source: "In the NT it denotes 'righteous,' a state of being right, or right conduct...Said of God, it designates the perfect agreement between His nature and His acts (in which He is the standard for all men)" [Vine; www.studylight.org/dictionaries/eng/ved].

Observations and Concerns

May 1, 2024

When speaking of the Lord and what is righteous, the Bible indicates God’s commands are righteous (Psalm 119:172), God loves righteousness (Hebrews 1:9), God’s ways are righteous/just (Revelation 15:3), and God’s judgments are righteous (Revelation 16:7).

Because of God’s righteousness/justice, (1) He forgives those who comply with His terms of salvation (1 John 1:9), (2) He performs His words by keeping His promises (Nehemiah 9:7,8), (3) He upholds His people (Psalm 129:1-5), (4) He does not forget His children’s faithful activities (Hebrews 6:10), and (5) He punishes the wicked (Revelation 16:5-7). “To affirm God’s justice is to affirm that in all situations and in all details, God will do right . . . He is morally capable of expressing or taking only those actions which are in keeping with His character. He is inwardly perfect; and therefore, His outward activity must necessarily be consistent with His perfection. He cannot clear the guilty. He will not clear the guilty [emphasis mine, rdc] . . . Justice demands that the evil shall be punished and that the righteous shall be rewarded” [Rex A. Turner, Sr., Systematic Theology (Montgomery, AL: Alabama Christian School of Religion, 1989), pp. 50,51].

If Jehovah makes a law and in connection with it establishes a penalty for violating it, since He is righteous/just, He must punish the lawbreakers. By God’s mercy, though, Jesus offered Himself as a substitute sacrifice on our behalf. Jesus, the perfectly righteous One “bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). In short, the Christ “suffered once for sin, the just for the unjust . . .” (1 Peter 3:18).

The Bible also affirms that through Jesus, God will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31). If God is truthful in what He communicates in His word, and if He is righteous/just, then He will deal with man in precisely the way that He has declared in His truth.

In view of God’s righteousness and His declarations about how to be forgiven of sins, it is inappropriate to ask Him to save a person who has refused to submit to His plan of salvation. After the death of one who clearly did not obey the gospel’s conditions of salvation, some well-intending people may remark that they have prayed and asked God to be merciful to and forgive the lost person. If we trust God’s integrity, we know He will deal justly with all people. If He has said that He will save those who obey Jesus (Hebrews 5:9), then to pray for Him to save the disobedient shows either (1) a lack of faith in God’s word or (2) a disregard for what He says. Because of God’s righteousness, He must do what is right/just. He must act in harmony with what He has revealed to mankind in His truth. To do otherwise would make His words meaningless and unreliable.

If the biblical conditions of pleasing God do not really “count,” then why did He give them to us? To be righteous, God must act in perfect harmony with His revealed will in every single instance. He does!

Welcome Visitors! Thank you for being with us in worship today.

Praise in Psalm: “I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations” (Psalm 108:3).

Declaration of Appreciation: Remember to thank the Lord who daily loads us with benefits, both physical and spiritual (Psalm 68:19).

Our monthly **Youth Devo** is Friday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM at the home of the Nelsons. Weather permitting, there will be a backyard fire with s’mores and hot dogs. Please bring finger foods.

The **men’s business meeting** is this coming Sunday (May 5th) after evening services.

Just a reminder, there will be **no potluck** in May.

VBS – June 9-12, 2024. This year’s theme is “**Jesus: Eternal God.**”

This year’s Summer Series theme is “**Beatitudes of the Old Testament.**”

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Jim Allison** has a tumor on his neck. He will be having surgery to remove the tumor. A biopsy will follow.
- ▶ We are grateful to God that **Dicie Jackson’s** tests came back clear.
- ▶ **Pat Taylor** is scheduled to have surgery on her carotid artery on May 14th.
- ▶ **Glen Beaman**, brother of Dicie Jackson, is scheduled for surgery on May 13th for prostate cancer.
- ▶ **Karen and John Hughs**, friends of Andy and Nelda, are currently having medical issues and other struggles.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, May 1	Sunday, May 5 AM	Sunday, May 5 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes 9:30 AM	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
Worship 10:30 AM	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
Worship 5:00 PM	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
(except 2 nd Sunday – 2 PM)			
Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson
Lord’s Supper		Doyle Jackson	
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes 7:00 PM	Doyle Jackson	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen