

In Pursuit Of Righteousness



What It Really Means To
“Put On The Lord Jesus Christ”
(Romans 13.14)



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- ◉ David said, “The Lord will repay each man for his **righteousness** and his faithfulness...” (1 Sam 26.23).
- ◉ That makes it sound like people have different degrees of righteousness.
- ◉ But aren't we all clothed in “the righteousness of Christ”?



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NO.

The phrase
“righteousness of Christ”
does not occur anywhere in the Bible.



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Furthermore, the biblical metaphor of
“being clothed”
has to do the expression of an inward
quality, or the execution of a purpose;
not with how one is “legally” or
“positionally” viewed by another.



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Thus, the Spirit of Messiah says,

“I will rejoice greatly in the Lord,
My soul will exult in my God;

For He has clothed me with garments of salvation,
He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness...

For ... the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.”

Isaiah 61.10-11



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Thankfully, we *are* “justified in Christ,”
and He *has* become our righteousness.

See Galatians 2.17; 1Corinthians 1.30;
cf. Jeremiah 23.6; 33.16.



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However, this means that Christ
is *the basis* of our
righteousness, not that God is
blind to our personal behavior.



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A Source of Confusion:

Failure to recognize two kinds of righteousness in Scripture.



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The 2 Kinds of Righteousness:

1. Relational (Genesis 15.6).
2. Ethical (Philippians 3.6-9).



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Then he believed in the Lord;
and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Genesis 15.6; Romans 4.3



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“... as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss ... that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a [my] righteousness ~~of my own~~ derived from ~~the~~ Law, but that which is through faith[fulness of] Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith ...”

Philippians 3.6-9



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The 2 Kinds of Righteousness:

1. Relational (Right Relationship).
2. Ethical (Right Behavior).



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For You do not delight in sacrifice,
otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O God,
You will not despise.

Psalm 51.16-17



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The 2 Kinds of Righteousness:

1. Relational (Justifies).
2. Ethical (Does NOT Justify).



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The 2 Kinds of Righteousness:

1. Relational (Gift from God).
2. Ethical (Pursued by Grace);
See 1 Timothy 6.11.



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Conclusion:

1. Our righteousness, whether *relational* or *ethical*, is **truly our own** though it is a gift from God and only possible through Jesus.



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Conclusion:

2. Having trusted in Christ, we are justified and secure in God's family by our *relational* righteousness; we must now pursue *ethical* righteousness (Matthew 6.33). By the pursuit of righteousness, we become the Bride made ready (Colossians 1.28; Revelation 19.7-8).

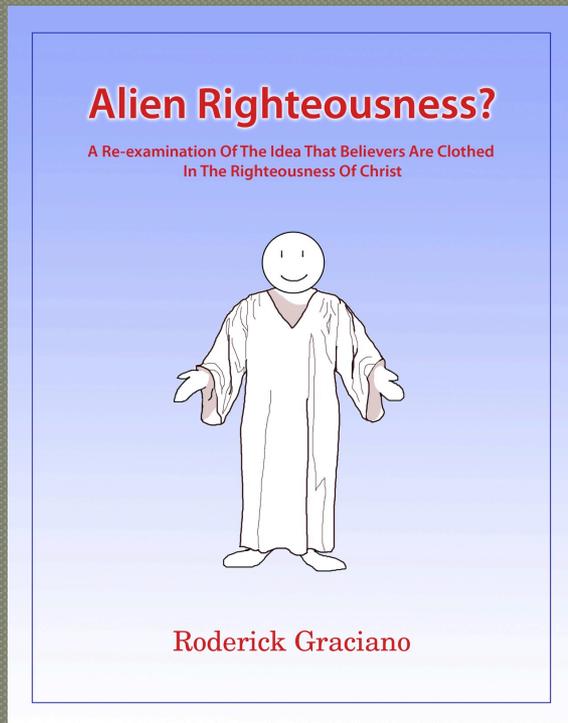


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Conclusion:

3. To “put on Christ” means to *identify with Him* by our baptism (Galatians 3.27) and by our daily acts of Christ-like righteousness (Ephesians 4.24; Colossians 3.12-14).

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