

## Righteousness by Faith

@Chestatee SDA

Chestatee Prayer Ministry Team presents...

# Righteousness by Faith

KICKOFF  
**JANUARY 31**  
FOLLOWING  
MINI POTLUCK

## FOUNDATIONAL PASSAGE

Romans 5:1-2 KJV

[1] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: [2] by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

“The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been, just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents, perfect obedience to the law of God, **perfect righteousness**. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled.”

**Steps to Christ, p 62-63**

## **PREFACE**

This is going to be a huge study, spanning multiple afternoon sessions, because of the magnitude and depth of the content. This topic is the foundation of everything associated with the Great Controversy and the reality that we're living. It is the basis for your own personal salvation, and it permeates

all of our doctrines.

It is also what ignited the fuse of the  
**Protestant Reformation.**

It is a truly epic study, and spans the entire Bible, found in all 66 books, and probably appears in the majority of the 1189 chapters in the Bible. According to Ellen White it is the **foundation of the third angel's message** and therefore foundational to our purpose and mission as the remnant church. So we need to understand this like the back of our hand!

"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "it is the third angel's message in **verity**."

E.G. White  
Review & Herald  
April 1, 1890

**Verity** means a true, foundational principle.

In our 182 year history, this is the *only topic* that almost split the SDA church in the late 1800s, until Ellen White stepped in. And it certainly will be forefront as the **image of the beast** is formed.. genuine vs counterfeit salvation. Genuine worship vs counterfeit worship.

Most prominent Adventist preachers have good RbyFaith presentations incl John

Bradshaw, Walter Vieth, Morris Venden, Ted Wilson, Shawn Boonstra, etc. And of course A. T. Jones and Joseph Waggoner sermon transcripts are available online.

They are worth a listen, but as always.. We encourage you to study for yourself!

**This doctrine is the very foundation of our mission, message and purpose,**

*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Aug 21, 1905*

rather than fight, because their hearts  
are evil.

Christ and his righteousness,—let this be our platform, the very life of our faith. That which he taught, we are to teach. His commission to his followers is: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature;” “and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

## OUTLINE

Topics we will cover through our exploration



of Righteousness by Faith, and not in this particular order, some will overlap,

- ✓ Biblical definition with EGW insights
- ✓ Hebrew and Koine Greek word studies
- ✓ Principle illustrations throughout the Bible
- ✓ How the theology applies to *you*
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Great Controversy
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Three Angels Message
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Sanctuary
- ✓ James chapter 2, faith and works
- ✓ Imputed vs Imparted righteousness
- ✓ Martin Luther and the Reformation
- ✓ The 1888 General Conference session
- ✓ The counterfeit and end time events
- ✓ Perfection and last generation theology
- ✓ Righteousness by faith throughout eternity
- ✓ Justification + sanctification = RbyFaith
- ✓ We will build a Bible based theology

## **PART 1 | THE DEFINITION**

*Deep dive breaking it apart*

**Righteousness** by Faith

**In the Old Testament** *Hebrew*

The phrases "Righteousness by Faith" and "Justification by Faith" are synonymous,

because the root Greek word *dikaio*s or the matching Hebrew word *tsaddiq* can be translated into English as either **Righteous** or **Just** as shown below,

צַדִּיק

## Lexical Summary

**tsaddiq:** Righteous, just

**Original Word:** צַדִּיק

**Part of Speech:** Adjective

**Transliteration:** tsaddiyq

**Pronunciation:** tsad-deek'

**Phonetic Spelling:** (tsad-deek')

**KJV:** just, lawful, righteous (man)

**NASB:** righteous, righteous man, just, righteous ones, right, righteous men, Righteous One

**Word Origin:** [from H6663 (צַדִּיק - righteous)]

1. just

## Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

just, lawful, righteous man

From **tsadaq**; just -- just, lawful, righteous (man).

see HEBREW **tsadaq**

**From the different translations**



Habakkuk 2:4 **KJV**

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the **just** (tsaddiq) shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 **NKJV**

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the **just** (tsaddiq) shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 **NIV**

"See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the **righteous** (tsaddiq) person will live by his faithfulness

Habakkuk 2:4 **NASB**

"Behold, as for the impudent one, His soul is not right within him; But the **righteous** (tsaddiq) one will live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 **RV1885**

Behold, his soul is puffed up, it is not upright in him: but the **just** (tsaddiq) shall live by his faith.

Typically the KJV and NKJV translates it to **Just**, the other translations to **Righteous**. But

it's the same thing. EGW typically used *Justification by Faith* in her writings because she didn't have the modern translations, only the KJV and RV.

## In the New Testament *Koine* Greek

★ AI Overview



The verb form "justify" (from the Greek root *dikaioō*) appears about **40 times** in the New Testament, while the noun form "justification" (*dikaiosis*) appears only twice. The term is frequently used in Romans and Galatians, often in the context of being declared righteous before God through faith. [🔗](#)

Romans 5:1 KJV

Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Notice this is past tense... **Justified**

δικαιόω

## Lexical Summary

**dikaioó:** To justify, to declare righteous, to acquit

**Original Word:** δικαίω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** dikaioó

**Pronunciation:** dik-ah-yo'-o

**Phonetic Spelling:** (dik-ah-yo'-o)

**KJV:** free, justify(-ier), be righteous

**NASB:** justified, justify, freed, vindicated, justifies, acknowledged justice, acquitted

**Word Origin:** [from **G1342** (δικαίος - righteous)]

◀ 1. to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent ▶

## Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

free, justify, be righteous.

From **dikaios**; to render (i.e. Show or regard as) just or innocent -- free, justify(-ier), be righteous.

see GREEK **dikaios**

The original Greek root word is **dikaio**s and has the meaning of "being declared innocent" or to be justified, to be shown right. Notice the *judicial* implication in the Greek translation,

◀ **1342. dikaios** ▶

**Lexical Summary**

**dikaio**s: Righteous, just, upright

**Original Word:** δίκαιος

**Part of Speech:** Adjective

**Transliteration:** dikaios

**Pronunciation:** dee-KAH-yos

**Phonetic Spelling:** (dik'-ah-yos)

**KJV:** just, meet, right(-eous)

**NASB:** righteous, righteous man, right, just, righteous one, innocent, justice

**Word Origin:** [from **G1349** (δίκη - justice)]



## HELPS Word-studies

**Cognate: 1342** *díkaios* (an adjective, derived from *dikē*, "right, **judicial approval**") – properly, "approved by God" (J. Thayer); *righteous*; "just in the eyes of God" (Souter). See 1343 (*"dikaiosynē"*).

["Righteous" relates to *conformity* to God's *standard* (justice). For more on the root-idea see the cognate noun, 1343 /*dikaiosýnē* ("righteousness").]

1342 /*díkaios* ("righteous, just") describes what is in conformity to God's own being (His will, standard of rightness); hence "upright."

**Righteous, Just** = being made right with God, declared just, innocent, and set free.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 KJV

[20] Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**

Romans 5:1 KJV

Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

*Deep dive breaking it apart*  
Righteousness **BY** Faith

## Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



by

/bī/

preposition

1. identifying the agent performing an action.
2. indicating the means of achieving something.

"malaria can be controlled by attacking the parasite"

**By** = the means by which, it's a **vehicle** to get to the destination, which in this case is righteousness.

*Deep dive breaking it apart*  
Righteousness by **FAITH**



Let the Bible define it, from the beginning of the Great Faith Chapter,

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

ev·i·dence

/ˈevəd(ə)n(t)s/ noun

the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

Hebrews 11:2 KJV

For by it the **elders** obtained a good report.


The elders here are all the patriarchs who follow in this chapter. They are commended for their faith.

And then Paul goes on in chapter 11 to give examples of biblical faith,

Hebrews 11:3 KJV

Through **faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (*or are visible*)

In other words, the world was made from nothing that was already existing. This is one of the things Satan, or anyone, could never do: *create something from nothing*. Because we are the creation. Life belongs to God alone

 Question

**Why is this a great example of faith?**

Paul continues, and his examples of faith get deeper, and to the heart of worship,

Hebrews 11:4 KJV

By **faith** Abel offered unto God a more

excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

There's a **principle** here that we'll talk more about in the coming presentations. And it is this,

FAITH IS MORE THAN JUST A  
PRINCIPLE OR A BELIEF.  
GENUINE FAITH IS  
DEMONSTRATED

It is *lived out*, even, or especially if, it is difficult or unpopular to do so.

**Ellen White** puts it this way in *Gospel Workers*, pg 260... "Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience"

And by the way, of course Satan has a **counterfeit to faith**,



“True faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption, **for presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith**”

Gospel Workers, p 260

"The storm is coming, the storm that will try every man's faith of what sort it is. Believers must now be firmly rooted in Christ or else they will be led astray by some phase of error"

***Last Day Events***



Question

**What is a modern day religious example of presumption?**

And then she expands the definition of faith in the book Education, pg 253... "**Faith is trusting God**—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good"

Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV

**Trust** in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.

🤔 Question

There is a definite **benefit** to trust found in that verse. What is it?

Hebrew word translated to **trust** is נִטַּח "batach" meaning.. be bold confident, secure, sure, careless one, put confidence, make to hope.

## **Biblical definition of righteousness**

*The source of righteousness*

Psalm 145:17 KJV

The LORD is righteous in all his ways,  
And holy in all his works.

Romans 3:21 KJV

But now the righteousness of God  
without the law is manifested, being

witnessed by the law and the prophets;

### Romans 1:17 KJV

For therein is the righteousness of God **revealed** from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

### 1 Corinthians 1:30 KJV

But of him are ye in **Christ Jesus**, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and **righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption:

**Discussion of the verses above. What is righteousness?**

**Ps 145.17** "The Lord is righteous." Period, Is a declarative statement of fact. The very nature of God is righteous. And the reality of this is revealed through His works.. "in all his ways"

Here is an important principle we will unpack as we go along,

**Rom 3.21** Righteousness clearly originates from God alone. This fact becomes crucial to understanding this doctrine correctly, and is the core of our very salvation.

**Romans 1.17** God has *revealed* His righteousness to the world through His Son. This is the *evidence* of things hoped for.

**1 Corinthians 1.30** Jesus IS righteousness.

Also notice the progression of the results of faith in vs 30!

Using Matthew 22 as an example, Ellen White puts it this way in ***Christ's Object Lessons***,

"This covering, the robe of His **own** righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul"

2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the

**righteousness of God** in him.

So in the end, the very best definition of righteousness **is Jesus**. He doesn't just *have* righteousness, or *give* righteousness.. He **IS** righteousness, according to the Bible. It is His very substance.

JESUS  
IS  
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Some define righteousness as "**right doing**" and there is truth to that certainly in the right context, but it's much deeper than *performance*, as we'll see.

This was **Martin Luther's** *paradigm shift* in the early 1500s that sparked the Protestant Reformation.



Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.

**Martin Luther**

Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.

**Martin Luther**

Jesus, Might, Sin



He [Christ] died for me. He made His righteousness mine and made my sin His own; and if He made my sin His own, then I do not have it, and I am free.

**Martin Luther**

## **PART 2 | THE MESS THAT WE'RE IN**

*The Great Controversy*

**We will start with the Endgame,**

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 KJV

[20] Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye **reconciled to God**. [21] For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 5:1 KJV

Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**We have a sin problem. Can you define sin?**

1 John 3:4 KJV

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: *for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Romans 3:20 KJV

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: *for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Transgressing God's moral law sounds like a huge deal, and it is! **But is this the mess we're in?** *The core of it*, if you drill down to the real issue. Here's the real issue in one sad verse,

Genesis 3:9 KJV

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, **Where art thou?**

In those three words is found our real problem: **separation from God**. So at its core, the mess we're in isn't so much a "doing right or wrong" issue. **It's a relationship issue**. The *results* of which are seen in our works, good or bad. And the sin that inevitably comes from that broken relationship *causes* the separation,

## **SIN SEPARATES**

Isaiah 59:1-2 KJV

[1] Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: [2] but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, May 31, 1870

"The sin of Adam and Eve caused a fearful

separation between God and man"

Because a perfect, holy God can't hang with a miserable, wretched sinner. Sin separates.



Genesis 3:6 KJV

[6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, **and did eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and **he did eat**.

**Where was the moment of transgression?**



It was *before* she took a bite of the forbidden fruit,

Mark 7:21-23 KJV

[21] For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, [22] thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: [23] all these evil things **come from within**, and defile the man.

It was the same with the Fall of Lucifer,

Isaiah 14:12-13 KJV

[12] How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] **For thou hast said in thine heart**, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

So sin is really a heart issue, which finds its origin as a **broken relationship** issue, which manifests itself through our works.

**This is why we will be judged by our works,**

Revelation 20:12 KJV

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Ellen White puts it this way in *Steps to Christ*, page 17

"In his sinless state, man held joyful **communion** with Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the **presence of God**. Such is still the condition of the *unrenewed heart*. It is not in **harmony with God**, and finds no joy in **communion** with Him. The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the **companionship** of holy things"

Communion, presence of God, harmony with God, companionship. To Ellen White, our real problem is a relationship issue. And that comes from a heart problem.

### **Jeremiah 29:13 KJV**

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your **heart**.

### **Ezekiel 36:26-27 KJV**

[26] A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to

walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**And the real problem?** We can't fix it! Paul understood the situation he was in very clearly when he wrote these words,

Romans 7:24 KJV

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

So did the prophet Isaiah,

Isaiah 64:6 KJV

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

***Steps to Christ***, page 43

By nature we are alienated from God. The Holy Spirit describes our condition in such words as these: "Dead in trespasses and sins;" "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint"; "no soundness in it." We are held fast in the snare of Satan; "taken captive by him at his will." **Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:5, 6; 2 Timothy 2:26.** God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him.

## **The Doctrine of Original Sin**

*And the nature of Christ*

**At what point did YOU become separated from God?**

Psalm 58:3 KJV

The wicked are estranged from the womb:  
They go astray as soon as they be born,  
speaking lies.

Romans 3:10-11 KJV

[10] as it is written, There is none righteous,  
no, not one: [11] There is none that  
understandeth, There is none that seeketh  
after God.

**Are you held *accountable* at birth? Are you *guilty* at birth?**

Ezekiel 18:20 KJV

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

Psalms 25:8 KJV

Good and upright is the LORD: Therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

Deuteronomy 32:4 KJV

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he.

Acts 17:30 KJV

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

**Where would be the fairness in holding**



someone accountable and guilty before they can even make a decision?

**We have inherited Adam's sinful nature, but not the guilt, until we transgress the Law.**

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God’s law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law.”

**EGW | Review & Herald | Nov 11, 1915**

## **The Origins of Sin**

We can't perfectly obey the Law in and of ourselves because of our bent towards sin,

which EGW describes this way,

"Sin originated in self-seeking"

*Desire of Ages*, Chapter 1

The highest angel in heaven, the greatest of the created beings, Lucifer, used his free will and rebelled against God.

Luke 10:18 KJV

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.



Ezekiel 28.13 - 19



Isaiah 14.12 - 16



Revelation 12.7 - 9

Ellen White gives us some insight into Lucifer's thinking before his rebellion,

Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God, and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged sovereign of Heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is he thus honored above Lucifer?" {GC88 495.1}