

Righteousness by Faith

@Chestatee SDA

Chestatee Prayer Ministry Team presents

Righteousness by Faith



CHAPTER 1 | THE DEFINITION

Basics of Righteousness by Faith

CHAPTER 2 | THE MESS THAT WE'RE IN

The Great Controversy and going deeper

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DOCTRINE *from the first century church to Martin Luther to the 1888 GC session*

CHAPTER 6 | LAST GEN THEOLOGY

And perfectionism

CHAPTER 7 | END TIME COUNTERFEITS

Don't be Fooled!

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, the reality that we're living, and is the basis for

your own personal salvation.

Righteousness by Faith 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 the principles 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

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 always, 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 Greek word studies
- ✓ Understanding the doctrine correctly
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Great Controversy
- ✓ Principle illustrations throughout the Bible
- ✓ Including righteousness in Bible charac

- ✓ How the theology applies to *you*
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Righteousness and the Remnant
- ✓ 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

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CHAPTER 1 | THE DEFINITION

Precept upon precept, Isa 28.10

Righteousness by Faith

In the Old Testament Hebrew
The phrases "Righteousness by Faith" and
"Justification by Faith" are **synonymous**,
because the root Hebrew word tsaddiq
(and the matching Greek word dikaios)
can be translated into English as either
Righteous or Just as shown below.

In both Hebrew and Greek notice the
judicial implications in the English
translations,

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 English 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**

You can have peace with God right now.

δικαίωσω

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 **dikaios** and has the meaning of "being declared innocent" or to be justified, to be shown right.

◀ 1342. dikaios ▶

Lexical Summary

dikaios: 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** (δικη - 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:

And it's appropriate for it to be presented from a **legal context** seeing how a heavenly judgment has begun ⚖️ You are in a legal mess! Unchangeable laws have been broken and there's a heavy price to pay.

Daniel 7:10 KJV

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

We stand condemned, *without righteousness.*

Precept upon precept, Isa 28.10

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, a conveyance.. which in this case is faith.

Precept upon precept, Isa 28.10

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.

Eyesight is key here 🕶️

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 chapter 11. They are *commended* for their faith!

First of all, what is "hoped for"?

Colossians 1:27 KJV

to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

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 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. Daniel chapter 3 for example.

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 how is it related to "some phase of error" she predicts above.

And then EGW 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 נָטַח "batach" meaning.. be bold, confident, secure, sure, careless one, put confidence in. How does this relate to these verses,

Hebrews 4:15-16 KJV

[15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the throne of

grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

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:

Matthew 6:33 KJV

[33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and **his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Notice that the Bible, old to new testaments, is **consistent** on this topic, no contradictions. This fact alone gives us *confidence* in the Word of God.



Question

Based on the Bible, what is righteousness?

Ps 145.17 "The Lord is righteous." Period. It 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"

As we'll see, it works exactly the same way with the redeemed. We'll unpack this important principle 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. Genuine righteousness cannot be manufactured, or faked.

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

John 14:9 KJV

.. he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;

1 Corinthians 1.30 Jesus IS

righteousness.

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

righteousness.. sanctification..
redemption.

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"

Ellen White agrees in *Mount of Blessing*, p 18

"The righteousness
of God is **embodied**
in Christ.

We receive
righteousness by
receiving Him."

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.**

Also echoed in the old testament,

Jeremiah 23:5-6 KJV

[5] Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,

that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. [6] In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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. And it is His to give!

Righteousness isn't just a concept or actions. Ultimately the best definition for righteousness is a Person. Jesus Christ IS righteousness.



Righteousness by Faith 02.28.26

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Promote



Save

Understanding it this way, puts things in the right order. It's the same principle as the Sabbath, which is a weekly reminder that we are the creation, depending completely on our Creator. **Jesus is righteousness** reminds us where our own righteousness comes from, including our right doing. We are completely dependent on Him for everything. Including the very power to do right to begin with! If you see it this way, then your *right doing* comes

from your right relationship with God, not from any other reasons or motives. Including spiritual pride, which is a real thing.

If as EGW wrote, "**only perfect righteousness**" will get us to heaven (Steps to Christ, p 62) then **Jesus** is your only hope to get there. That's why Jesus said this,

John 14:6 KJV

Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

JESUS
IS
RIGHTEOUSNESS

John 1:14 KJV

And the **Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us..

And **righteousness** was made flesh, and dwelt among us..

Jesus **is** righteousness, Jesus is **your** righteousness. So therefore we need to seek HIM,

Zephaniah 2:3 KJV

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; **seek righteousness**, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

Seek righteousness = seek Jesus

Jeremiah 29:13-14 KJV

[13] And ye shall seek **me**, and find **me**, when ye shall search for **me** with all your heart. [14] And I will be found of you, saith

the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity..

Seek God first, the right doing comes *from that*. The *captivity* in this verse is to the downward spiral of sin. Notice that it's an all or nothing search effort.. All your heart.

Jesus taught the same thing in a parable,

Matthew 13:45-46 KJV

[45] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: [46] who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold **all** that he had, and bought it.

Ellen White agrees, *Mount of Blessing*, p 18

"The righteousness
of God is **embodied**
in Christ.

We receive
righteousness by
receiving Him."

Some define righteousness as "**right doing**"

1 John 3:7 KJV

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

And this is true, in the right order. It's all

about cause and effect, and it's much deeper than *performance*, as we'll see. It goes to the heart. True obedience comes from love and respect. True worship comes from the heart and a *saving relationship with your Creator*.

KEY POINT #1

Right doing **comes from** a right relationship with God. Right actions **demonstrates** righteousness, they never produce it.

If they did, then you would be capable of creating your own righteousness.

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.

It's all about getting the theological horse in front of the cart, and keeping it there. Understanding our helplessness.

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

And then we defined **FAITH** using the Bible,

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things

hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The statement here shouldn't be regarded as a complete definition of faith, but rather lays out the basic foundation of it.. in this life we're living, without being able to actually **see God**. The rest of chapter 11 proves to us without question that saving faith is more than a mental assent to something. **Saving faith** is *demonstrated* (or proved) through our actions and obedience. Last time we met, we looked at numerous examples of this truth in the Bible.

CHAPTER 2 | THE MESS THAT WE'RE IN *The Great Controversy*

This is a comprehensive study, looking at every aspect and angle of the topic, to get a *complete understanding*. This should be our approach with every topic.

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:

Reconciliation and peace with God is the goal. See Revelation 21.3

The endgame is **complete restoration** that we read about in the final two chapters of Revelation. We will get there in our final presentation. But for now,

We have a big problem. Let the Bible 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 is the very definition of sin. So obviously it's a huge deal! **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.

The Pharisees had this twisted. To them, their religion, or being right with God, was all about **obedience**. *On the outside*. A performance_based religion. Check the boxes Make no mistake about it, this can be done, with a holy appearance on the outside (a mask), but secret sins and wrong motives on the inside. Jesus confronted them numerous times on this in the Gospels, and put the theological horse in front of the cart,

Matthew 23:26 KJV

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is **within** the cup and platter, that the **outside** of them may be clean also.

Inside first, then the outside follows.
Internal transformation.

Matthew 5:21-22 KJV

[21] Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall **kill** shall be in danger of the judgment: [22] but I say unto you, That whosoever is **angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment..

We even see this principle in this famous statement that we use to uphold the Law of God,

Mark 7:8 KJV

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

There's the Pharisitical man-made check list.. Traditions. Forgetting that the Law of God brings us in harmony with God,

Hebrews 10:16 KJV

This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, saith the Lord, I will

put my laws into their hearts, And in their minds will I write them;

SIN SEPARATES *is the bottom line*

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.** And in that thought, is the mess we're in.. Separation from God.

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. "And the woman **saw**".. she *processed* the information and what the serpent had said. She looked and considered it. She rationalized her transgression. She was fooled. But it started internally,

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:

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.**

Our works are an outward demonstration of what's going on inside,

Sin is a heart issue

Which causes the broken relationship


Which manifests itself in our evil deeds

Likewise

Righteousness is a heart issue

Which heals the broken relationship

Which manifests itself in our good deeds

 **If you keep the moral law consistently, perfectly.. does that make you righteous?**

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.

The moral law only *reveals* sin, it does not produce righteousness.

for by the law is the
knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20

"deeds of the law" means keeping it, which is repeatedly upheld in the Bible.. **but it doesn't justify us.** The purpose of the Law is to point out our shortcomings and sinfulness. It's a mirror,

God's moral law is a **reflection** of what's going on on the inside. Object Lesson,



Looking at it this way, **James 1** makes perfect sense,

James 1:23-25 KJV

[23] For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [24] for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. [25] But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but

a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Like a pressure gauge, the Law of God is a reflection of what's going on in the heart. It reflects where our loyalty lies.

This is why Ellen White wrote that the mark of the beast is a "test for the people of God"

It's a **test** of where we have *already* stored up our treasure (Matt 6.19), the right decisions will come from that.

She makes it clear in *Steps to Christ*, page 17 that the real issue is the **heart**,

"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, a heart problem.

The sin problem comes
from a **relationship**
problem.

You want to fix the sin
problem, start with the
relationship.

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.

We can't fix the real problem! 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.

"Our righteousness"... Check list righteousness without conversion, is as filthy rags, useless to salvation.

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.

YOU can't fix the heart problem, but the Holy Spirit can. If you let Him.

 Notice **what** she says is the **one thing** you can and have to do to get out of the mess were in,

"We must yield ourselves wholly to Him"

In those 7 words is found the difference between the broad and narrow roads.

Complete surrender is required for sanctification, for salvation. More on this

in future presentations! But needless to say it is a big deal, and it's where the Enemy of God's people puts all of his energy and resources,

Convincing you
that partial
surrender is
good enough.

- ≡ ○ We hear this lie from the pulpits of Babylon (once saved always saved),
- ≡ ○ From society (life is all about me),
- ≡ ○ And particularly through social media (distracting you completely)

This is why putting your efforts into trying hard to obey without being completely surrendered is a losing effort. Satan would love nothing more than to keep you on that treadmill of frustration.

The effort goes into surrendering. It goes into making and keeping the connection. Into the relationship,

John 15:5 KJV

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

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? *This really doesn't
seem fair***

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?

But yet this is exactly what the Catholic Church teaches. Sin is like a virus that is naturally contracted at birth. And the guilt that comes with it,



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The Council of Trent defined original sin as “the death of the soul.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reaffirmed this definition (403) and added a key nuance: original sin is called *sin* “only in an analogical sense: it is a sin ‘contracted’ and not ‘committed’—a state and not an act” (404).

The truth is,

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

When we get to "final generation theology" we're going to watch a few video clips of Adventist theologians and evangelists explain this in further detail, and discuss.

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, closest to God, 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}

So this is the mess we're in. Now we're going to look at God's solution in the lives and actions of people throughout the Bible,

CHAPTER 3 | EXAMPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS *throughout the Bible*



Adam and his wife Eve tells the story of the fall of man, and God's provision for our salvation.

Here's **their** attempt at covering their newfound sinfulness,

Genesis 3:7 KJV

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Here's **God's** *divine act* that symbolizes the robe of righteousness,

Genesis 3:21 KJV

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Christ's Object Lessons, p 310-312

I counsel thee to buy of me ... white raiment, that you mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear. Revelation 3:18

The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. All the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair. This robe of light was a symbol of their spiritual garments of heavenly innocence. Had they remained true to God, it would ever have continued to enshroud them. But when sin entered,

they severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed, they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing together fig leaves for a covering.

This is what the transgressors of God's law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve's disobedience. They have sewed together fig leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable with God.

But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garments, no worldly citizen dress, can be worn by those who sit down with Christ and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear

in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul.

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks

upon us, He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.

- ≡ ○ In this section is found.. The problem, the counterfeit solution, and the real solution.
- ≡ ○ What was their first reaction to the sin problem?
- ≡ ○ How does that reflect the false church today?
- ≡ ○ How can we fall in that same trap?
- ≡ ○ The parable of the wedding feast (Matt 22.1-22) teaches the truth that righteousness is found only in Christ.
- ≡ ○ What is the real solution to the sin problem?

The story of Cain and Able presents all the major themes found in the Great Controversy. At the end of time, type will

meet anti type when each person will have to decide if they are a Cain, or an Able.



This contrast is seen in these two verses,

Matthew 23:34-35 KJV

[34] Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and **persecute** them from city to city: [35] that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of **righteous Abel**

unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

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.

Abel's offering had been accepted, but this was because Abel had done in every particular as God required him to do.—[Signs of the Times, December 16, 1886.](#)

James 2:26 KJV

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.



Noah is listed in the Faith chapter of Hebrews 11,

Hebrews 11:7 KJV

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.