

C&C: Reconciliation by the Death of Jesus Christ

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

Isaiah 64:5-7

5 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.

6 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.

7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

In this lesson we will be focusing our attention on a statement made many times by pastors, teachers, and preachers alike. That statement is “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”. It is important to first establish that in the context of this passage this statement is being spoken to people who were under the Mosaic Law. The question then becomes can we who are living under the New Testament Covenant of God be the righteousness of God in Christ while at the same time making the statement that “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

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.**

We are the righteousness of God in Christ!!

2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath **righteousness** with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

John 12:32-34

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33 This he said, **signifying what death he should die.** {reconciling the world unto himself}

34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how

sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

Romans 5:8-10

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
10 For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life.**

Let us focus our attention again to this particular verse of scripture. “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.”

We are not as an unclean thing as the Prophet Isaiah spoke of pertaining to the natural seed of Israel who were under the Mosaic Law. For we have been cleansed and purified!! Our sins and iniquities are not taking us away because under the New Testament Covenant of peace the Lord was merciful to our unrighteousness by remitting our sins and thus remembering our sins and iniquities no more.

Hebrews 8:12-13

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and **their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Ephesians 5:24-27, 30

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might **sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

27 That he might present it to himself **a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;** but that it should be **holy and without blemish.**

30 For we are **members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.**

Remember we are the righteousness of God in Christ!! We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. The washing of water by the word is speaking of the water baptism in Jesus name where the blood of Jesus Christ is applied to our sins and thereby remitted. (See: Acts 2:38, 22:16, Col 2:11-14, 1 Peter 3:21)

Titus 3:4-5

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, **by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

Spiritual cleansing, regeneration, and reformation by repentance and water baptism in Jesus name and the receiving of the Holy Ghost.

The Greek word in use for washing:

3067. loutron, loo-tron'; from G3068; a bath, i.e. (fig.) baptism:--washing.

The Greek word in use for regeneration:

3824. paliggenesia, pal-ing-ghen-es-ee'-ah; from G3825 and G1078; (spiritual) rebirth (the state or the act), i.e. (fig.) spiritual renovation; spec. Messianic restoration:--regeneration.

1 Peter 1:18-23

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with **the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that **your faith and hope** might be in God.

22 **Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit** unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

We must remember that when the Prophet Isaiah spoke “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”, was being spoken to people who were under the Mosaic Law.

Hebrews 10:1-4

1 For **the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.**

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 **But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.**

4 **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**

Our sins have been remitted!!

Romans 3:19-26

19 Now we know that **what things soever the law saith**, it saith to them who are under the law: **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.**

20 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.**

21 But now **the righteousness of God without the law is manifested**, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even **the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ** unto all and upon all them

that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare **his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time **his righteousness**: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Since we all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God, God sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ the Righteous into the world, to be the mediator between God and man bringing forth reconciliation through his death. Now we have access through faith in his blood unto God's grace wherein we now stand. Being then justified freely by his grace we have the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we are made the righteousness of God in Christ through our obedient faith in his blood.

So as to the question of can we who are living under the New Testament Covenant of God be the righteousness of God in Christ while at the same time making the statement that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags", the answer is no. How can that which God has cleansed be unclean? You can't be both the righteousness of God and yet at the same time say all your righteousness is as filthy rags.

Hebrews 11:32-33

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 **Who through faith** subdued kingdoms, **wrought righteousness**, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

By the works of faith righteousness is wrought. Our works are wrought in Christ. We are the righteousness of God in him. Therefore the works that we do are through faith of Jesus Christ and righteousness is imputed unto us. We are to follow after righteousness and this takes place by our obedient faith to God.

James 2:24

24 Ye see then how that **by works** a man is justified, and **not by faith only.**

James 2:17

17 Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

James 1:25

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.**

Works of faith wrought in Christ!! "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." (Eph 5:30)