

Holiness

“HOLINESS and IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Don Maurer

June 13, 2014

1. Introduction.

- a. Philippians 3:7-9. “Whatever gain I had, I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake, I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”
- b. Mentioned in some of our older hymns.

2. Imputed Righteousness: Historical Context.

- a. Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 14, Sec. 1.

“Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous, not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ’s sake alone, nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith, which faith they have not of themselves; it is the gift of God.”

3. Definition of imputation and Scripture proof.

- a. Genesis 15:6. “He (Abraham) believed the LORD, and He counted to him as righteousness.”
- b. Psalm 32:1-2. “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

4. Imputed righteousness versus infused righteousness.

5. Why is this so important: our need for imputed righteousness.

- a. God is holy (set apart, morally pure.) He cannot look upon sin, and His standard is perfection.
- b.
 - i. Habakkuk 1:13. “You who are of purer eyes than to see evil, and cannot look at wrong.”
 - ii. James 2:10. “For whoever keeps the whole law, but fails at one point, has become accountable for all of it.”
 - iii. Matthew 5:48. “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
- c. Man is sinful, and can do nothing to save himself, having no righteousness with which to commend himself to a holy God.
 - i. Psalm 51:5. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

- ii. Romans 3:9-18. “What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all! For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin. As it is written:
‘None is righteous, no, not one.
No one understands.
No one seeks for God.
All have turned aside;
Together they have become worthless.
No one does good, not even one.
Their throat is an open grave;
They use their tongues to deceive.
The venom of asps is under their lips.
Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.
Their feet are swift to shed blood.
In their paths are ruin and misery,
And the way of peace they have not known.
There is no fear of God before their eyes.’”
- iii. Romans 3:19-20. “Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law, no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”
- iv. Matthew 12:36. “I tell you, on the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak.”

6. The Great News of Imputed Righteousness.

- a. Romans 3:21-22. “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all who believe.”
- b. Romans 3:26. “It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

7. The Content of Faith: knowledge, assent, trust.

8. Conclusion

Romans 9:30. “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”