

Verse of the Month

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”
(John 5:24, ESV)*

What is righteousness and why is it important?

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—” (Romans 3:21, ESV)

To be righteous is to be _____. It is to be in the _____. It is to be _____ in my actions, in choices, and my motivations against any accusation. To be righteous is to be above _____. It is that no one can hold anything against me. It is to be _____.

Who is righteous?

*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.**” (Romans 3:10–12, ESV)*

How do we know righteousness?

“For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.” (Romans 2:12, ESV)

How many commandments were in the law?

How many of the commandments does the law demand we obey?

“For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.” (Romans 2:13, ESV)

How do we know righteousness without the law?

“For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.” (Romans 2:14–15, ESV)

What are two responses to the impossible demand of the law?

1. _____

“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.” (Romans 1:28–31, ESV)

2. _____

“Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.” (Romans 2:1, ESV)

Building heaven without God

*I believe most people are good
And most mamas oughta qualify for sainthood*

*I believe them streets of gold are worth the work
But I still wanna go even if they were paved in dirt*

Luke Bryan – Lyrics from I Believe Most People Are Good

God's Righteousness

“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. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 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.” (Romans 3:21–26, ESV)

The World Says vs The Word Says

I’m good	God is perfect.
I decide what is right/wrong	God does
I blame external systems	God says, “I blame your internal sin.”
I rebel against authority	God rules all with authority
I deserve tolerance	God deserves repentance
I am a victim	God and others are my victims
I accept myself	God forgives me
I love myself	God loves me
I help myself	God makes me new

My Response

Lord, I have too often claimed to be in the right when I have not. I have sometimes done the right thing but with the wrong motives. I have lived in rebellion to your commandments thinking I was more right than you. I tend to blame everyone else for my predicament and make excuses to justify my sinfulness. But I cannot claim innocence. I repent of my disobedience to my conscience and to your Holy Law. I deserve nothing but your eternal punishment. Forgive me for the sake of Jesus’ sacrifice and his shed blood on the cross. Amen.