Year A #44

His Righteousness

030302-4

Hello! This is Dorothy -

What a joy to talk to you today and share all the wonder of our living Lord Jesus Christ. He is very much alive! He is alive, not because we say He is alive, but He is alive because the Word of God declares He is alive and you know, Christ is the righteousness of God.

In **Romans 3,** we read **-**

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.

In the Old Testament, under the Law, the righteous person became righteous by doing righteously. Perhaps you remember the story about Elizabeth and her husband, Zacharias. They did righteously. **(Luke1:6).** For the believer, the one who has come to know Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, the righteousness life is the result of

salvation only through Christ. Under grace, such a person does righteously, because he has been made righteous. It is not what we did; it is what Christ did for us on the Cross, and that is the extraordinary, amazing message of grace. The righteousness of God is neither an attribute of God nor the changed character of the believer, but Christ Himself, who fully met, in our stead and our behalf, every demand of the Law. He is, by the act of God, right now imputing righteousness unto us. I want you to understand if we see we have Christ, our righteousness, we will understand how He can bear fruit through us, even though we have been called, as by the Word of God we have just read, **sinners**. Yet, cleansed by His precious Blood, there is a new life within us. In Christ we have a position of power. It is His power that is demonstrated to perform His work through us, but it can only be done through the humble heart that says, *I cannot, but You can!* and is totally dependent upon Him.

Let us take an illustration in your life. Perhaps there is a situation that is absolutely impossible. Great! That is usually the situation God allows so that we have to then come to the end of ourselves and turn to Him to do something on our behalf. However, to bring this to pass, we do not just magically say, *All right, Christ - You do it; I cannot!* We have to come to the place of saying, *Forgive me where I have put myself in this position. Only You can do this. I have tried to do it in my strength, in my energy, for my glory, for my promotion; I am very interested in me and that everybody knows what a special person I am.* But the Lord says, "Wait a minute! You are the blockage! You see, you died in Me two thousand years ago, when I triumphantly died and was buried and rose again victoriously and ascended into Heaven. By the outpouring of My Spirit, the redeeming of your very life makes your flesh, your life, available for Me to indwell to do My work through you."

So therefore, we have to say, *Lord, forgive me. I have messed it all up; I have been living these x-number of hours or day or months or whatever as a Christian. It is You, Lord. Therefore, Your plan through me and Your power is there. Lord, I have been all this time trying to deal with the problem, but I never realized there is a fresh flow. There is a plan that is so different from what I had thought about.. I do not have to know all the details. I just have to learn how to say, Yes, Lord. and to depend totally upon You and to make myself available for You to do this work through me.*

Will you say that prayer right now? Will you say, *Lord, I thank and praise You, that by Your precious Blood, I know I am born again. But I want to ask you to forgive me: I have been trying to do the work that only You can do. I thought You were pleased with me, but I realize I have really messed up the whole plan of what You had been hoping to do through me. Therefore, I want to be available right now to know the exchange of You being the life in and through me in the very incident in which I find myself, and to trust You by faith and to say, Thank you, Lord. Yes, You can do this and I believe that You are going to get glory. No longer will I look for praise, but all praise will go to You.*

In Jesus' precious Name. Amen.