

Now we can add a fourth meaning of the righteousness of God to the other three; namely, God's production of righteous character and conduct (moral righteousness or holiness) in the one who trusts in Christ and His atoning work.

What a wonderful revelation of the righteousness of God is found in the gospel! What marvelous good news! And what a wonderful deliverance from sin and to righteousness is applied to every one who trusts in Jesus Christ!

No wonder the Apostle ends this third major section of his epistle by asking, what then shall we say to these things? in 8:31-39 he asks and answers three important questions:

First, who can be against us, if God is for us?

Second, who can condemn us, if God declares us righteous?

Third, who can separate us from God's love, if God loves us in Christ and for His sake?

The answers Paul gives are clear, definite, and ringingly final:

No one can be against us, in the final, ultimate sense!

No one can condemn us before the bar of God's righteous judgment!

No one and nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ!

But these answers are true only for those whom God has savingly united to Jesus Christ and His saving work by the Holy Spirit through faith.

Let us ask ourselves: Am I trusting in Jesus Christ and His atoning work as revealed in the gospel?

If I am, then all of the benefits of Christ's salvation are my portion and inheritance.

And if this is so, then let us together lay hold of all, that God has graciously given us in Christ! Let us not shrink back from claiming and enjoying all that Christ has purchased for us, especially His perfect gift of righteousness, imputed to us for our justification, and imparted to us for our sanctification.

This is indeed the good news of deliverance from sin through the revelation of God's righteousness to everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ, whether Jew or Gentile!

This is indeed the full gospel, the gospel of deliverance from the guilt of sin to a right standing before God, deliverance from the penalty of death to the gift of life, deliverance from the power of sin to the power of righteousness, and deliverance from the presence of sin to the total presence of righteousness; and all to the glory of God's grace!