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### *Righteousness*

Righteousness is about being in right standing with God and having an unsullied relationship with him: a relationship where we can know God as a loving Father and not as sinners in the hands of an angry God! The Jews tried to achieve this 'blessed relationship by keeping the Law God gave to Moses - but it didn't work, and Paul, commenting on this, states ... a man is not justified [made righteous] by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. **Galatians 2:16.**

There is only one way for us to become righteous and that is by faith in what Jesus did for us at Calvary.

If, as Paul says, we can have a right relationship with God simply by having faith in what Jesus did, that means we don't have to try to keep the Law, and that's exactly what the bible says - "... Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" **Romans 10:4.** In fact, the Law was never meant for Christians - ...the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers ... **1 Timothy 1:9** and we don't need to keep it to be righteous.

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Righteousness is by faith alone and once we have believed, what we do or don't do

makes absolutely no difference whatsoever to our relationship with God. As far as our righteousness is concerned, our performance is irrelevant. – We're righteous because of what Jesus has done and what we do doesn't affect that one little bit! For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus] shall many be made righteous. **Romans 5:19**

Even when we have just sinned our relationship with God is unaffected and God doesn't condemn us. He has no need to. He has already condemned Jesus on our behalf! There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **Romans 8.1**

Although our relationship with God is not affected if we sin – sin still affects us! It's deadly. When we sin we give place to the devil and this brings death in the form of depression, fear or some other guise. That's one very good reason to live a godly life once we've become righteous by faith in Jesus. The other is that our nature has been changed and we don't actually want to sin anymore!

So – if we want a right relationship with God and to live a godly life – we should act on Paul's words to the Corinthians ...Awake to righteousness, and sin not; ... **1 Corinthians 15:34**

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