

This is Not Your Own Doing

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What Does "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and You Will be Saved" mean? / Righteousness; Pride; Humility; Self-righteousness / Ephesians 2:4–10

Self-righteousness is an obstacle to the gospel, which insists that true righteousness can only be found in Jesus Christ.



Ephesians 2:4–10 ESV

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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I. The real issue of righteousness

Job 9:2 ESV

² “Truly I know that it is so:
But how can a man be in the right before God?”

Psalms 130:3 ESV

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?”

II. True righteousness is not the result of human effort

Romans 3:20 ESV

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Galatians 3:11 ESV

¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Titus 3:5 ESV

⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

III. Self-righteousness is a contradiction in terms

Romans 3:10 ESV

¹⁰ as it is written:
“None is righteous, no, not one;

Romans 3:23 ESV

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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IV. God calls people from their pretended self-righteousness

Isaiah 2:22 ESV

²² Stop regarding man
in whose nostrils is breath,
for of what account is he?

Jeremiah 17:5 ESV

⁵ Thus says the LORD:
“Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

V. True righteousness is not your own

A. It comes from God

Romans 10:3 ESV

³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.

B. It is grounded in Jesus Christ

Acts 13:39 ESV

³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

C. It comes about by faith

Romans 5:1 ESV

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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D. It is received in humility

Luke 18:13–14 ESV

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

God’s Plan of Salvation

Romans 10:17 ESV

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Luke 13:3 ESV

³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

1 Timothy 6:12–13 ESV

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession,

Acts 2:37–38 ESV

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 2:10 ESV

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.