



The Wheel of Faith Bible Study Guides Lesson #3 “Within the Veil”

At this point in the Gospel Story most people are ready to move on to deeper things because they figure that they know this stuff, right? They know Jesus died for our sins, and they feel this to be the central point to the Gospel; so let's move on.

Well, friends, this is not all there is to the atonement story; and redemption is still incomplete if all you know is, 'Jesus died for my sins'. While it is foundationally true that 'He died for my sins', it is equally true that 'He lived for me'. And unless we understand that His **life** is as important as His **death**, as it relates to our redemption, then we are still without the hope of eternal life.

We are going to turn to a very strange place to discover the second part the atonement.

1. Read **Daniel 7:9-10**

*“I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;
A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
The _____ was seated,
And the books were opened.”*

a. Read **Ecclesiastes 12:14**.

*For God will bring _____ work into judgment,
Including _____ secret thing,
Whether good or evil.*

- **Discuss:** What do these texts say to you? How do you feel about every thought, action and intention you have ever had being in the judgment before God; who sees and knows everything about your life?

In short, the judgment reveals that we are guilty of treason against God. We are arraigned before the bar of God, and condemned as guilty, and the punishment is death.

b. Read **Genesis 2:16**

And the Lord God _____ the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat”

Eternal life for Adam and Eve was based upon obedience. Adam’s eternal life was perpetually dependent upon being obedient to the law of God, and this he had the capacity to do. His eternal life was based upon his own inherit righteousness.

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“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen, and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God.”

- **Discuss:** what are the implications of this statement to our lives today? Can we earn salvation by our righteous obedience to God's law? Can we obey the law perfectly?

2. Read Romans 3:19 What are the implications?

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are _____ the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

- **Discuss:** Are we under the law?

As Paul will clarify later that we are not under the law as a means of salvation, but we are under the law in the sense that there still is a requirement to live up to its high claim.

- **Read:** *“The Lord requires no less of the soul now, than He required of Adam in Paradise before he fell - perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement of God under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement he made in Paradise - harmony with His law...”*
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At this point in our lesson it should be dawning on us that there is still a righteous requirement of the law which demands of man a perfect obedience in order to have eternal life.

a. Discuss: How does this make you feel?

What is your response to such a demand?

Can you live up to it?

If you were honest with yourself the natural response to these questions are obviously on the negative. The average person knows that they can't live up to the highest demands of the law. If it is left up to the individual to live up to a perfect obedience to inherit eternal life that the law might be satisfied on your behalf, then we are doomed, and the most miserable of men!

b. What is the way out?

3. Read **Romans 5:18-19**

“Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

- **Discuss:** What are these texts saying to you?

Where does your righteousness come from?

Where does our obedience to the law come from?

The word *made* is the Greek word **kathistēmi**, which means *according to standing*. **Meaning: Our** standing before God in the judgment is based upon **His** Righteousness, which is his perfect obedience to the law of God. In other words, the righteous requirement of the law is satisfied by His life of perfect obedience for me.

{ **Caveat** } This truth does not release us from personal responsibility to obey the law. That is a subject we will discuss later. But as for the requirement of righteousness that the law demands for eternal life, this can only be obtained by the righteousness of Christ, or His perfect obedience to the law, which is righteousness earned **for** us then imputed or accredited **to** us.

- a. When we have his righteousness, then God justifies us.
See above text in **Romans 5:19**.
What does Justification of life mean?

The word is **δικαιωω**; Justification is a courtroom term that means to be acquitted, to be proclaimed innocent. It is receiving a verdict of not guilty.

- b. Why do we receive a verdict of not guilty when we have clearly been proven to be guilty of breaking the law?
Read **Romans 4:1-3**

“What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was _____ to him for righteousness.”

The word accounted is also translated as imputed. It is the Greek word **λογιζομαι** and it means to accredit something to someone’s account.

- How does Abraham receive righteousness which is perfect obedience to God’s law?

Paul is clear that Abraham, and us as well, receive the righteousness that the law demands by imputation, or by it being accredited to us. It is never our own righteousness, and it is never our obedience to the law, it is an obedience or righteousness that comes from God.

- c. Where does this imputed righteousness come from?
Read **Romans 3:24-26**

“Being _____ freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate _____ righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time _____ righteousness, that He might be just and the _____ of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

- After reading the text whose righteousness is it that justifies us before the broken law of God?

It is the perfect righteousness of Christ that God imputes, or accredits to us, and when God grants us that righteousness, He then is able to justify us, or declare us not guilty in the judgment.

- d. From the above scripture, last sentence, how do we receive that righteousness which is imputed to us? In other words, what do we have to do to have His righteousness imputed to us?

The answer is **faith**, and by **faith** alone!

- **Read and discuss:**

“By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the law, and my only hope is found in looking to Him as my substitute and surety, who obeyed the law perfectly for me. By faith in His merits I am free from the condemnation of the law. He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the law. I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness. He presents me to God in the spotless garment of which no thread was woven by any human agent.” 1sm396

- e. There is one more road in **Romans 3:24-26** that we need to look at.

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a _____ by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance, God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

The word propitiation is the Greek word **hilastērion**, and it means covering. The Mercy seat was called a propitiation or covering because it provided man with a covering before the broken law of God. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. His righteousness is our propitiation, or our righteous covering that is imputed to us; which allows God to justify us before the law of God and proclaim us innocent;

when in fact we are not, and we receive this propitiation by faith in Jesus righteous life.

- **Discuss:** What exactly the righteous life of Christ was.
- How did He live during His 33 years of life?
- Do you see that while on the one hand He died for our sins, but on the other hand He also lived out a perfect life to be our righteousness as well?

Appeal:

Have you accepted both His death and life by faith
to represent you in the great judgment of God?