

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

...."This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB

December 31st

RIGHTEOUSNESS RESTORED

[part 3 of 8]

Legal Righteousness

* Then, in Romans 3:21–26, we find out that this righteousness has been restored on legal grounds.

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets. (verse 21)

Notice the expression “apart from the law.” Independent of the law, a righteousness of God has been manifested, and the law, as well as the prophets, are witnesses to its validity.

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: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (verses 22–24)

Even our standing with God is on the ground of faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, God laid upon Jesus our iniquities:

“He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus was more than a sin offering. He was actually made sin with our sins; He was made unrighteous with our unrighteousness. Then, as our substitute, bearing our sins, He went to the place of suffering, where He left His body. He

stayed there until every claim of justice against us had been wiped out, for there was no claim against Him.

He was our substitute, taking our place, being made sin with our sin.

He went on to blighting judgment until everything against us had been satisfied. It was deity suffering for humanity. And, being deity, He alone could pay the penalty.