

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

January 2nd

RIGHTEOUSNESS RESTORED

[part 5 of 8]

Made Righteous

* Just as surely as God made Jesus sin, He makes you righteous the moment you accept Him. Let us go back again to Romans 3.

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (verse 24)

Now, God declares that you were made righteous freely by His grace in the redemption that was in Christ Jesus. He did this "to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" (verse 25).

From the time Adam fell until Jesus hung on the cross, God had been covering sin with the blood of bulls and goats. To atone means "to cover." The term atonement is never used in connection with the blood of Christ because His blood does not cover; it cleanses.

You do not need to be covered. Under the law, sin was not put away. Sin was not cleansed. It was covered by the blood of bulls and goats. God had been gracious through all the ages. He had been covering sin.

When Jesus was on the cross, God took all of the covered sins and laid them upon Him, along with our sins, so that Jesus became not only our substitute but also the substitute for all who had trusted in the blood of the atoning lamb.

Jesus did this "to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He

might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26 nkjv).

This is perhaps the most difficult passage for us to accept because it declares that God Himself becomes the righteousness of the man who has faith in Jesus.

The moment you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and confess Him as Lord, God becomes your righteousness. Then, you stand before Him as though your sin had never been. God not only becomes your righteousness, but we find that God also made Jesus to become your righteousness. By your new birth, you have been “made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).