

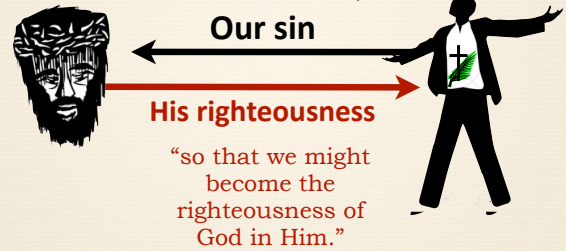


“The Gospel is ours to proclaim, not to edit.”

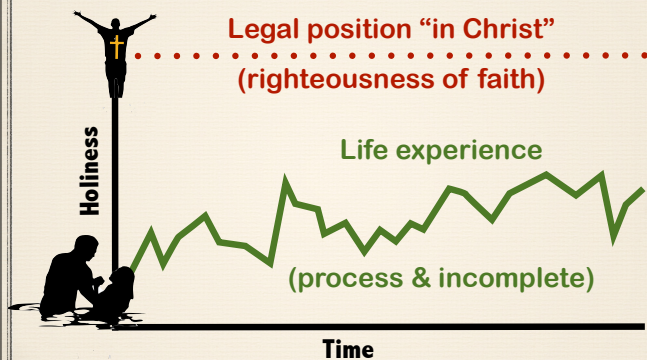
## Positional Truth

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,”

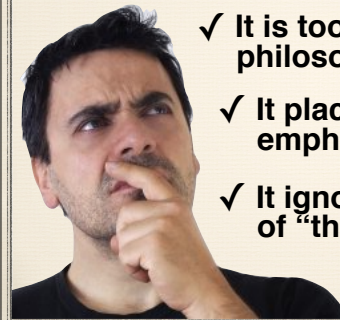


## The two aspects of righteousness



## The Fear of Positional truth

- ✓ It is not relational, personal, or felt.
- ✓ It promotes moral irresponsibility.
- ✓ It is too intellectual and philosophical.
- ✓ It places too much emphasis on justification.
- ✓ It ignores the importance of “the work of faith.”



## Jesus' requirements for salvation

- Righteousness that surpasses that of the Pharisees.
- Whoever shall say ‘you fool’ will go to the hell of fire.
- Tear out the offending eye lest you go to hell.
- If you don’t forgive you will not be forgiven.
- If you don’t bear fruit you will be cut off and burned.
- Only those who DO God’s will will enter the Kingdom.
- Those who deny Christ will be denied by him.
- Unless you sell all and follow you will not have life.
- Unproductive slaves will be cut off and go to hell.
- Those who do not care for the least will go into hell.

## The tension

- Paul
- Moses
- Jesus

*1. Moses ministered under the Old Covenant.*

*2. Jesus was born & ministered under the Law, which was to convict us of our need.*

- Jesus teaching sounds like the prophets of the O.T. with respect to salvation.
- This is why the Epistles build on Jesus’ death and resurrection not his teaching.

## The tension

# • Paul

- James
- John

1. James 2:14-26 Next week.

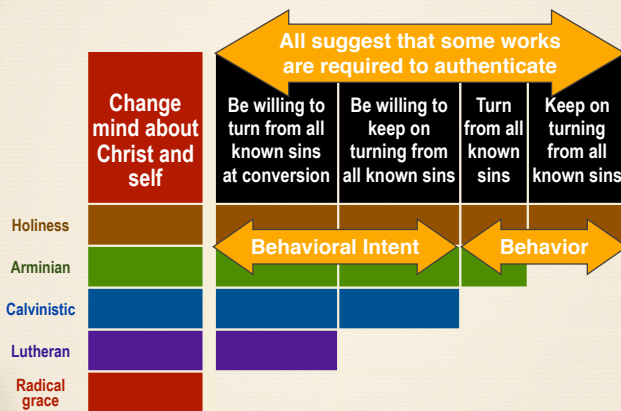
2. 1 John 3:2-10 The week following

## Four views

### The relationship between a faith confession and faithful conduct

Jewish	Roman Catholic	Reformed Protestant	Radical Grace
Obedience is all that matters	Obedience is an expression of faith	Obedience is a marker of faith	Obedience is a fruit of faith
Obedience	Faith	Faith	Faith
=	=	/	>
Faith	Obedience	Obedience	Obedience

## What must I repent of to become a Christian?



## Romans 3

"<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God **through faith** in Jesus Christ for all those **who believe**; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood **through faith**. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one **who has faith** in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by **a law of faith**. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is **justified by faith** apart from works of the Law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since indeed God who will **justify** the circumcised **by faith** and the uncircumcised **through faith** is one. <sup>31</sup> Do we then nullify the Law **through faith**? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law."

## Some demand that the "works of the Law" refer to:

- the ceremonial parts of the Law only?
- or
- the improper use of the Law only - legalism?

1. The Law was one unit with no distinction between ceremonial, civic, and moral laws.
2. Jesus fulfilled the law as a covenant (including the moral law).
3. Paul refers to the law as that which was written in stone (ten commandments).

## 2 Corinthians 3

"<sup>6</sup> who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. <sup>7</sup> But if the ministry of death, in letters **engraved on stones**, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of **Moses** because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, <sup>8</sup> how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? . . . <sup>11</sup> For if that which **fades away** was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory."



**Jesus does not show us the way;  
HE IS THE WAY.**

1. Our link to the righteousness that saves us is - Christ & faith not the Law & works.
2. The good news is not the power to reform the flesh but the imputed virtue of Christ through faith.
3. The issue is not faith that produces works but faith apart from works.

“<sup>27</sup> Where then is boasting? **It is excluded.** By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”

**Faith takes away any pride that man might have in his relationship with God.**

*Which suggests:*

1. Faith is not a work, but contrary to work.
2. Faith is not a gift, but rather, the reception of a gift (justification).

<sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one. <sup>31</sup> **Do we then nullify the Law through faith?** May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

**Faith righteousness is accounted as real so as to satisfy the Law's demand for a holiness**

**that is not  
performed by us.**

*Romans 4*

“<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; **but not before God.** <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? *“And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”*

**Abraham was justified  
before God by faith  
(before man by works? see James 2).**

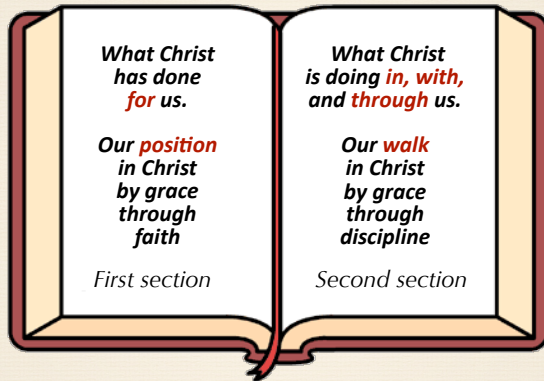
“<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not **reckoned** as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is **reckoned** as righteousness,”

**God does not (regard, count, see) a person as justified before God by reforming the ungodly person but by declaring the ungodly person holy without their behaving in a godly way.**

“<sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered. <sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”*”

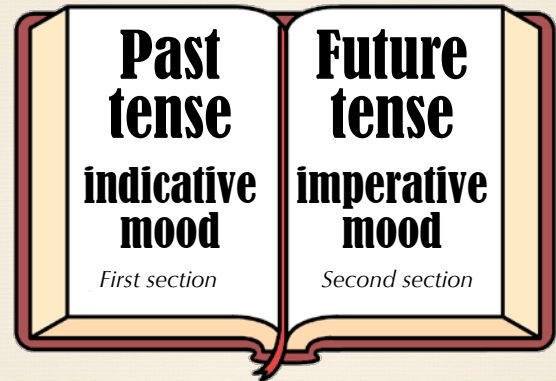
**The blessing of the Gospel is that our sins are covered, not accounted or overcome.**

## The pattern of Paul's letters



The order is consistent and significant

## The pattern of Paul's letters



The order is consistent and significant

*But isn't repentance a part of saving faith?*

*Acts 2:38-39*

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.'"

Repent from what? (all known sins, or disbelief?)

Repentance is turning



*Hebrews 6:1*

"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of faith toward God"

Strategic REPENTANCE



*2 Corinthians 12:21*

"and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not **repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.**"

Strategic REPENTANCE is not without need for repeated tactical repentance.





## 1. Strategic REPENTANCE



from  
self



to  
Christ

Turning from worldly hopes  
for eternal life to faith in Christ

## 2. Tactical repentance



from  
sins



to Godly  
living

Turning from specific sins so as  
to commune with God and others.

### REPENT

exchanging hope  
in self  
and the world  
for the Cross of Christ



★ Misplaced faith  
★ Conversion

### repent

letting go of worldly  
attachments, attitudes,  
& actions for  
Kingdom living



★ Lovelessness  
★ Communion

## Don't confuse

strategic REPENTANCE and tactical repentance.

### REPENT

- ✓ **Apostasy** is the reversal of strategic REPENTANCE.
- ✓ Strategic REPENTANCE need not be repeated.

### repent

- ✓ **Backsliding** is the reversal of tactical repentance.
- ✓ Tactical repentance is repeatedly needed.

Water baptism  
is about  
conversion.



The Lord's Supper  
is about  
communion.



**Both are about  
repentance.**

### Lessons

- God takes the **initiative** and fulfills the Law's call for holiness.
- Our first responsibility is not to do the works of the Law but to **believe**.
- The Gospel of salvation is not the power to reform but the **gift** of the righteousness of Christ.
- The Gospel is first of all received by **faith** not feeling or action.