

People Builder's Network
Firm Foundation Series
Lesson Three: **RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD**

MAN'S NEED FOR RIGHT STANDING

1. Man enjoyed a standing before Almighty God at the time of Creation due to his innocence, having never sinned. God and man walked together and spoke face to face in the garden of Eden. Man had no sense of guilt, condemnation or inferiority until the day in which he disobeyed God and partook of the forbidden fruit. Now he is not able to stand before God in confidence and speak boldly to Him; because of sin consciousness. He knows he has broken God's law and is ashamed before Him. He hides from God's presence until God searches him out and gives him a way back to "right standing".

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife _____ themselves from the _____ of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden". Genesis 3:8

2. "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and _____ them". Genesis 3:21. God made provision here for a "covering" for man's nakedness, symbolizing the need to "cover" man's sins from God's sight so that penalty would not be required of them.

3. In order to "cover" their nakedness with animal skins, blood had to be shed by the innocent victims. When the animal's life was sacrificed to cover man's sin, the principle of "substitution" was introduced into the plan of redemption. Life for life was required to free the guilty one. According to Leviticus 17:11, God accepted the blood of animals symbolically until an innocent man could shed his blood for the sins of mankind. "For the _____ of the flesh is in the _____: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an _____ for the soul".

4. The word "atonement" means "covering". This is the most that could be accomplished with the blood of animals because animals could not be an acceptable substitute for man in the courts of heaven. Man's sin had to be "removed", not just "covered", before man could be restored to full position and privilege with God as before sin came on the scene. Hebrews 10:4 says, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should _____ (remit) sins".

DEATH REIGNED FROM ADAM TO MOSES

5. Because of Adam's disobedience, sin as a ruling principle entered the human race, and by it death passed upon all men so that all men from Adam to Jesus were controlled by the power of sin. This is why God sent the flood in Noah's day, because from Adam to Noah the human race had given itself over to the most base practices. They were influenced by satan, who was the initiator of man's rebellion.

"And God saw that the _____ of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only _____ continually".
Genesis 6:5

6. God told Adam the penalty for disobedience of a positive command was death: "And the Lord God _____ the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt _____ die".
Genesis 2:16-17

7. The death Adam experienced was twofold, both physical and spiritual. The day he sinned he died spiritually, in that he was cut off from vital spiritual relationship with God, followed eventually by physical death and corruption. Spiritual death was instant, physical death began as a process of aging. "And all the days that Adam lived were _____ hundred and thirty years: and he _____". Genesis 5:5

8. From Adam to Moses there were no positive commands given by God for man to disobey, nevertheless man was still dying both deaths because of sinning against the "law of conscience", each man suffering the penalty because of his own sin. "Wherefore, as by one man sin _____ the world, and _____ by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned; for until the _____ sin was in the world; but sin is not _____ when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the _____ of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come". Romans 5: 12-14

9. Many years later, God begins to work toward the fulfillment of the promise spoken to satan in the garden of Eden just after the tragedy of sin occurred. Since satan was the instigator of man's rebellion against God initially and through

sin had gained a measure of influence over mankind, as Paul said, “satan, the god of this world” 2 Cor. 4:4.

Almighty God notified him of his defeat and punishment to be accomplished by Jesus Christ, the “seed of the woman”. Genesis 3:15 says, “And I will put enmity (hatred) between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall _____ the _____, and thou shalt _____ his heel”. God promised satan that even though he might succeed in “bruising his heel” at Calvary, yet in the resurrection, Jesus would crush his head. The head speaks of the controlling power of satan over mankind, as the head is the controlling part of the human body.

10. God then called a man named Abram to leave his homeland and travel to a distant land that God would give to him and his seed as an inheritance. Abram became the father of the Jewish nation of Israel. “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a _____ that I will _____ thee. And I will make of thee a great _____, and I will bless thee, and make thy _____ great”. Genesis 12:1-2

11. God promised Abram that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Genesis 2:3 says: “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee, and in thee shall all _____ of the earth be _____”. The blessing that God was referring to here was the blessing of “right standing with God. Abraham was the first man to enter “right standing with God” through faith. “And he believed the Lord and he counted it to him for righteousness”. (righteousness is the Old English Word for right standing).

12. God prophesied to Abraham that his seed would become a slave nation for four years in a strange land, but God would bring them out. “And he said unto Abram, know of a surety, that thy seed shall be a _____ in a land that is not theirs, and shall _____ them; and they shall _____ them four hundred years”. Genesis 15:13. This word came to pass when the children of Israel went down into Egypt for provisions during a time of famine and ended up becoming the slaves of the Egyptians.

13. God then called a man named Moses to be the deliverer of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery. Moses led the people out of Egypt, with great signs and wonders, into the wilderness between Egypt and the promised land, and they remained for 40 years until Moses death. During the 40 years of Moses’ leadership of Israel, God gave to him the complete manner of approaching His

Holy Presence through the animal sacrifices which had been prefigured back in the garden of Eden. The book of Exodus explains the Levitical priesthood, which would administer the sacrifices; the building of the tabernacle, where sacrifices would be made; and how the Presence of God would manifest when sins were “covered” or “atonement” was made.

“And according to all that the Lord _____ Moses, so the children of Israel made all the _____. And Moses did look upon all the work, and behold they had done it even as the Lord had commanded, even so had they done to: and Moses _____ them”. Exodus 39:42-43

14. Moses was also given the Law of the Covenant, better known as the 10 Commandments. The Law was not given as a means to gain “right standing” with God, but to define what sin is so that man would know what was acceptable to God and what was not. “Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be _____ in His sight: for by the law is the _____ of sin”. Romans 3:20

15. The Law was also given as a means to restrain the ungodly person with the fear of punishment for breaking the commandments. A righteous person doesn't need “fear of punishment” to keep him from doing wrong, but does what is right from the inner motivation of the fear of the Lord, (which is reverence and respect for God and His ways). I Timothy 1` : 9-10 says: “Knowing this, that the law is not made for a _____ man, but for the _____ and _____, for the _____ and _____, for _____, and _____, for murderers of _____ and murderers of _____, for _____, For _____, for them that _____ themselves with mankind, for _____, for _____, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is _____ to _____”.

16. If man does not “earn” right standing by keeping the Law, and cannot “work” his way back into God's presence by self effort, how can he become “righteous” or in “right standing” with God again? The same way Abraham did, by faith in God's Word alone. Abraham walked in right standing by faith, many years before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. “What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified (declared not guilty) by _____ he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham _____ God, and it was _____ unto him for righteousness. Now to him that _____ is the reward not _____ of _____ but of _____”. Romans 4: 1-4

17. God “counted” Abraham as “justified” or in “right standing” because he trusted God to do it. Another way to say it is that God “set righteousness to his account”. God gives man the “gift of righteousness”, simply because He promised to do it and we believe Him. Setting it to his account, as a person may go and deposit money to your credit that you did not earn. Romans 5:17 says: “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of _____ and of the _____ of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ”.

18. In the Old Testament the people trusted God to “cover” their sins by the shedding of the blood of sacrificial animals, thus enabling God to legally bless them. All of these sacrifices typified the shedding of the Blood of Jesus Christ, who became the “Lamb of God” on Calvary. Jesus Christ, as that “innocent” sacrifice that had never sinned, died as our legal substitute, not just to cover sin but to remove it completely. Every animal sacrifice ever made in faith was a promissory note that was cashed in when Jesus shed His blood to satisfy the claims of justice.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (lifestyle) received by tradition from your fathers; But with the _____ blood of _____, as of a _____ without blemish and without spot". I Peter 1:19-20

19. All those who had “died in faith” from the Old Testament were carrying their receipts from the promissory notes of animal sacrifices and waiting for the death of Christ in a place of comfort called Abraham’s bosom. None had yet gone to Heaven because the way had not yet been provided until Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven as a man, showing that the price was now paid for complete redemption and that man had a legal right to go there. Romans 4:25 says, “Who was delivered for our _____ and was raised again for our _____”.

20. On resurrection morning, as Mary stood at the tomb weeping and thinking that someone had opened it and stolen the body of Jesus, she saw a man standing there whom she didn’t recognize. He said, “Touch me not, for I am not yet _____ to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto _____ Father, and _____ Father; and to _____ and _____ God”. John 20:17

21. When God was robed in flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ, it was so a “man” could live according to all of God’s positive commands without sinning and then be the legal substitute for all of mankind, as an innocent victim who surrendered his life out of love to pay the just requirement of the broken law, which was both spiritual and physical death. Although Jesus never became a “sinner by nature”, as we were, He took our sins “upon” Himself at the cross and suffered the agony of being forsaken by God as though He were us.

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, My God, My God, why hast thou _____ Me?" Matthew 27:46

22. Because Jesus lived a sinless life, He died for no sin of His own. This is why death could not hold Him after the penalty of our sins had been paid.

“Whom God hath raised up, having _____ the pains of _____: because it was not _____ that he should be _____ by it”. Acts 2:24

23. Jesus then ascended up to Heaven to obtain “a place for us” at the right hand of the Father. This place is our position of right standing. We now share the same place at God’s right hand with Jesus. He obtained it for us. John 14: 2-3 says, “In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to _____ a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that _____ I am, there _____ may be also”.

24. In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians he explains in detail our position with Christ in heavenly places and says: “But God who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved) And hath _____ us up together, and made us sit together in _____ in Christ Jesus”. Ephesians 2:2-4

25. Because we have believed on Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, God has given us this glorious joint position with Christ. We did nothing to earn it, but were born again into it when we received Christ. Just like natural children are born into a family with all the privileges that are included, by no effort of their own, so are we now heirs of God. “And if we be _____, then _____: heirs of God, and _____ with Christ”. Romans 8:17

26. We now share in whatever Jesus Christ has as co-heirs, and this includes is right standing with God. We have entered into this “grace” by faith, and by faith we “stand” in it; not trying to earn “acceptance” with God, but enjoying the same “acceptance” as Jesus. Romans 5: 1-2 says, “Therefore being justified by _____, we have _____ with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom we have _____ by _____ into this _____ wherein we _____, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”.

27. How wonderful it is to know that we don’t have to pay the penalty of our own sins now that we have received Jesus as Lord. We have been acquitted and restored to a position of favor with God. We have the very same position as Jesus, His right standing is our right standing. We can go to the Father with the same confidence that Jesus Himself has, with no sense of guilt or condemnation . “To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us _____ in the _____”. Ephesians 1:6

28. We don’t have to feel like a second class citizen, with a spiritual inferiority complex, never feeling worthy enough to receive from God. We are accepted in the Beloved. In other words, we are as accepted as He is because He did it all for us. Just believe it, thank God for it, and begin to see yourself as in right standing with God through Christ. Don’t compare yourself with other believers, just know who you are in Christ.