

RIGHTEOUSNESS

(δικαιοσύνην = 'thikaiyosooni')

Righteous, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling and acting, state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God, the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, justice or the virtue which gives each his due.

Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

In the New Testament we can see the difference between producing or performing righteous acts, and being wholly and completely righteous. Notice that the word "**righteous**" does not focus on man, but on God, and specifically on God's divine nature. The Greek word denotes '*the character or quality of being right or just*'. It expresses a divine attribute of God and means essentially the same as His faithfulness or truthfulness because it is totally consistent with His own nature.

Another definition which is in line with the New Testament concept of righteousness is '*that which is totally compatible, and conforms perfectly, with God's life and nature*'. This view of righteousness will never permit man to be righteous in the sight of God on his own merits.

We need to be more righteousness conscious and less sin conscious. Our righteousness allows us access to the throne of God at any time. We can tap in to God's divine wisdom, power and ability, and this in turn, makes us masters over all circumstances.

Romans 5:17 says,.... "*For if, because of one man's trespass [offence] death reigned through that one [Adam], how much more surely will those who receive God's overflowing grace [unmerited favour] and the free gift of righteousness reign as Kings in this life through the One Man, Jesus Christ, God's anointed.*"