

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



The Names of God

This side of Heaven, it is impossible for our finite human minds to fully comprehend God's infinite, holy, awe-inspiring nature. We can only know what God chooses to reveal about Himself. In Scripture He reveals Himself to us through His attributes and through His names. We considered God's attributes earlier this year, so now we begin a series on the names of God.

The Lord Our Righteousness (Yahweh Tsidkenu)

We are not righteousness in and of ourselves. Our righteousness comes from God and God alone. Jesus imputes His righteousness into us so that we can see God. The righteousness we desperately need to find acceptance with God comes from God. It is God's own righteousness that He provides in the gospel. We are not simply to know that God is righteous, but we are meant to experience His righteousness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we must allow God's Word to guide us in righteousness every day, that we might grow in Christlikeness.

Reflections from Scripture on The Lord Our Righteousness (Yahweh Tsidkenu)

Psalm 4:1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Psalm 5:8 Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

Psalm 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

Isaiah 24:16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

John 17:25-26 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

II Corinthians 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Philippians 3:8-9 *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

Jesus, Thou art my Righteousness, by Charles Wesley

(Can be sung to tune of Alas And Did My Savior Bleed, Breathe on Me Breath of God)

Jesus, Thou art my Righteousness,
For all my sins were Thine:
Thy death hath bought of God my peace,
Thy life hath made Him mine.

Forever here my rest shall be,
Close to Thy bleeding side;
This all my hope, and all my plea:
For me the Savior died.

My dying Savior and my God,
fountain for guilt and sin.
Sprinkle me ever with Thy Blood,
And cleanse and keep me clean.

Jesus, my Strength, my Life, my Rest,
On Thee will I depend,
Till summoned to the marriage-feast,
Where faith in sight shall end.

("Jesus, Thou Art My Righteousness", text by Charles Wesley, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, there is none who is righteous, not even one. We have all fallen and missed the mark. Yet how often do we think we are right and defend ourselves when others disagree with us or oppose us. You alone are holy and right and righteous and your righteousness never fails. You alone can make us right with you and righteous with Christ's righteousness.

Thank you for sending Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One, the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin. Infuse us with his righteousness, so our lives might reflect holiness and righteousness on earth as it is in heaven. May your righteousness cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. In the righteous name of our righteous Savior, Amen.