

*To them that have obtained like
precious faith with us through the
righteousness of God and our
Saviour Jesus Christ.* 2 Pet 1:1

2 PETER CHAPTER 1

Lesson 1

The Essence of Christianity

8 August, 2014

2 Peter: 3 Chapters, 61 verses, 1,559 words.

Author: Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.

Recipients: Those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Read vs. 1-4

Important words: “**Obtained**” (vs. 1). God’s righteous can be obtained.

“**Given**” (vss. 3 and 4). If God gives us something, we didn’t earn it.

Contrast Biblical Christianity with Religion (or Non-Religion):

Religion: I can earn God’s favor and He’ll take me to Heaven if I’m good enough, if I haven’t done too many bad things, or if I perform certain prescribed religious ritual acts.

Christianity: I must have the absolute righteousness of God to get to Heaven. I’ll never be good enough of my own merits. God’s righteousness must be given to me freely.

How to obtain the gift of God’s righteousness:

By faith (vs.1) Stop trusting yourself (repent). Self-confidence and self-righteousness will prevent you from coming to Jesus Christ for the free gift of eternal life.

Place your full trust in God’s free gift of eternal life. Believe that Jesus Christ paid for your sins in his body on the cross of Calvary. Then receive forgiveness and eternal life.

Intellectual Belief is not the same as FAITH. Do you believe:

Jesus was the virgin born son of Mary? That belief won’t save you.

Jesus was a miracle worker, a healer, and a teacher? That knowledge won’t save you.

Jesus was a good man who died on the cross at Calvary? Concurrence won’t save you.

Jesus rose from the dead and went back to Heaven? Agreeing with that fact won’t save you.

Satan knows all those things to be true, but he’s not saved!

You must understand that you can NOT get to Heaven unless you are 100 percent righteous before the eyes of a Holy God. If you sin one time in your life, you cannot pass the test. That is why you need the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed (credited, reckoned) to you. His righteousness becomes your righteousness, by faith.

Romans 3:20-28

You cannot justify yourself by good deeds or by obedience to the Law. (vs. 20)

You need the righteousness of God, which is obtained, not by adherence to the Law, but by FAITH in Jesus Christ. (vss. 21-22).

God's glory is the standard that no man can meet since all men are sinners. (vs. 23)

Jesus Christ meets God's standard of righteousness and therefore is able to redeem (buy back) and justify (declare righteous) all those whose faith is in His blood. (vss. 24-25)

Those who declare Jesus Christ's righteousness (instead of their own) will have all their sins remitted (dismissed or passed over) and they will be declared righteous (justified). (vss. 25-26).

Romans 10:1-4

Paul prays that Israel might be saved (vs. 1). They believe God, believe God gave the Scriptures, they sacrifice to God, worship in God's temple, and believe there are no other gods. They're zealous (enthusiastic) for God (vs. 2) –But they need to be saved.

They're lost because they are “**ignorant of God's righteousness**,” therefore they are SELF-righteous and “**have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God**” (vs. 3).

Those who believe in Christ no longer rely upon the Law as a means of earning favor with God. He is the “end of the law for righteousness” (vs. 4)

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made His sinless Son (Jesus Christ) to be sin for us so that we could be “**made the righteousness of God in him.**”

Faith is:

The understanding that the only hope I have of Heaven is HIS righteousness and not my own.

Philippians 3:4-9

Paul had some impressive religious credentials that he counted on before he met Jesus Christ. Those were all things that exercised his own righteousness, but could not provide salvation. Therefore Paul cast away all his religious customs, stopped trusting his own righteousness, and placed all his hope of salvation in GOD'S righteousness.

Stop trusting your goodness.

Stop trusting your religion.

Jesus Christ is the only righteousness that exists in this universe. Is your hope in Him?