1. When you believe on Christ, God sends forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart and you become born again.

   “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30).

   “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (2 Cor. 5:17).

   A. This new creature—brand-new, born-again spirit—is righteous.

   “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

   B. You don’t become righteous through your own actions—you are created righteous.

   “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24).

   i. When you were born again, God gave you a righteous nature.

   ii. Most Christians are ignorant of this.

   iii. So they try to maintain a righteousness based on actions, which can never be the basis of their relationship with God.

2. You can’t be trusting in righteousness as a gift through the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in self-righteousness at the same time.

   “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:3).

   A. You can’t be self-dependent and God-dependent simultaneously.

   B. You’re either relying on God’s grace or yourself, but not a combination of the two.

   “If by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” (Rom. 11:6).

   C. You’re either trusting grace or works for salvation, but not a combination of the two.
3. You do benefit from maintaining a self-righteousness—your own actions of holiness.

A. God may treat you by grace, but people relate to you based on performance.

B. Your actions do cost you something in relationship with other people—and Satan is always looking to take advantage of your actions in any way he can.

C. There is a purpose for godly actions, but it’s not so you can put your faith in them for relationship with God.

D. The Gospel will produce power in you to overcome sin and live a holy life—but it’ll be a fruit of salvation, not the root.

4. For believers, the Law has fulfilled its purpose.

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth” (Rom. 10:4).

A. “End” basically means “termination” here.

B. Anyone who truly understands the Gospel and what Jesus came to do will recognize that the Law no longer produces righteousness for everyone who will believe and receive righteousness as a gift.

C. The Law was not given for the purpose of our justification.

5. A person who is legalistic and trusting their own goodness as the foundation of their relationship with God will be consumed with their doing.

“For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them” (Rom. 10:5).

A. When you start thinking that you are justified with God through your actions, you may be motivated and hopeful for a brief period of time—but it’s a treadmill you can’t get off.

B. Once you start trusting in your own holiness, it puts you under this burden and pressure to perform, and regardless of how much you do, you always could have performed better.

C. Burnout is nothing more than trying to produce the fruit of salvation through your own effort.

D. But when you trust in God and His grace instead, you’ll experience His strength, joy, and peace.

E. Place your faith in Christ’s performance, not your own.
6. It’s not your great holiness that earns you relationship with God.

   “But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead)” (Rom. 10:6-7).

   A. Instead of demanding you to come up to Him, He’s already come down to you.

   B. Instead of requiring you to do penance and suffer punishment for your sin, Jesus has already been separated from God and gone to hell for you.

7. Just receive what God has already done.

   A. Simply confess the word of faith—that you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ your Savior.

   “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Rom. 10:8).

   B. Don’t mix works and grace!
1. According to 1 Corinthians 1:30, what has God made Christ Jesus unto us?
   A. Wisdom.
   B. Righteousness.
   C. Sanctification.
   D. Redemption.
   E. All of the above.

2. Second Corinthians 5:17 reveals that we are what?

3. What has passed away?

4. What has become new?

5. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, who was made sin for us?

6. Who was made the righteousness of God in Him?

7. What does Ephesians 4:24 tell us to put on?

8. Who was this new man created after?

9. What was this new man created in?

10. According to Romans 10:3, religious people are ignorant of what?

11. What are they going about to establish?

12. Have people like this submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God?

13. According to Romans 11:6, is it possible to trust in both God’s grace and our own works for righteousness—right standing with God?

14. If it’s grace, then it’s no more of what?

15. If it’s works, then it’s no more of what?

16. According to Romans 10:4, Christ is what?

17. For whom?

18. According to Romans 10:5, which Old Testament patriarch described the righteousness which is of the Law?
19. The people who do these things—works of the Law for righteousness—shall what?

20. What kind of righteousness begins to speak in Romans 10:6-7?

21. Does this righteousness say, “I must ascend into heaven by living up to God’s standard perfectly”?

22. Does this righteousness say, “I must descend into hell and suffer the penalty for my sinful actions myself”?

23. According to Romans 10:8, what is nigh us?

24. Where is this word of faith?

25. What did Paul and his co-laborers in Christ do with this word of faith—the Gospel?
“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30).

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24).

“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:3).

“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” (Rom. 11:6).

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Rom. 10:4-8).