

Jehovah-Tsidkenu - "The Lord Our Righteousness"

- Jehovah is perfect in His righteousness. Psalm 129:4; Isaiah 45:21; Deuteronomy 32:4
Psalm 145:17 - *The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*
 - Jeremiah 23:5-8 - *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.*
 - Who is the prophet Jeremiah talking about? (Jesus) And what name of God is always capitalized? (Jehovah) *Jesus* is Jehovah God, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, the LORD Our Righteousness. Hebrews 1:8-9
 - When this prophesy was given, the nation of Judah had become ungodly, idolatrous, bent on violence and moral and political corruption. Though Israel had gone into captivity 100 years earlier for the same reason, Judah ignored all God's warnings and was about to suffer their same judgment. Though they had forsaken their God, God had not forsaken them, and still promised a Savior who would be their righteousness, Jehovah-Tsidkenu.
 - Jer.23:6; 33:16. The word "Tsidkenu" is from the word "tsidek" (straight, stiff, balanced - as on scales - full weight, justice, right, righteous, declared innocent.) God our Righteousness.
 - Suppose there was a "Righteous Olympics" where the most righteous people came together so judges could determine who the most righteous living person in the world was. Each contestant's reputation, good deeds, devotion to God, level of self-sacrifice, acts of love and kindness and purity of motives would be evaluated until one person emerged to be declared the most righteous. If such a contest existed, the most righteous person who has ever lived would not even come close to being *righteous enough* to stand in God's presence, let alone live in Heaven with Him. We are *all* unrighteous apart from Christ!
- Isaiah 63:6-7 - *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.*
- Romans begins in chapter one by declaring the fact that the heathen are not righteous, in chapter two that Israel is not righteous, and in chapter 3 that NO ONE is righteous. Romans 3:10-12; 23

- We must have the righteousness of Christ to enter Heaven and fellowship with God.
 Philippians 3:9 - *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*
- Christ bore our unrighteousness, satisfied the justice of God by paying for all our sin at Calvary, then **declares** those righteous who put their trust in Him alone, not their own righteousness.
 2 Corinthians 5:21 - *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.*
- Justification is the process by which one is declared to be righteous. Though we still sin, we are **declared** righteous and one day will stand before God in Heaven, perfect, just as though we had never sinned! When God speaks of the “righteous” He is speaking of those who have the righteousness of Christ, not their own righteousness.
 Ps 5:12 - *For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous [saved]; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.*
- Those to whom Paul was speaking were religious, disciplined people who believed in God and worshipped Him meticulously, yet they were not saved. Why? Because they presumed they could stand before God in their own righteousness and would not rely, instead, upon the righteousness of God **alone**.
 Romans 10:1-10 - *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 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. 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; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- Our “new man” is created by God to be truly righteous and holy. Start living the “new” life of righteousness today by turning from the old, ungodly ways, by renewing our mind to conform to God’s Word, and by deliberately following the example of Christ in our words, thoughts and actions.
 Ephesians 4:22-24 - *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*