

**Bible e-Study** on the book of Romans (1)

**No Longer Hidden**

*“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”* [Romans](#) 1:16-17

**NUGGET** – Righteousness is not an earthly thing. Being either Jew or gentile counts for nothing as far as righteousness is concerned. The same is true of being Arabic or Zimbabwean, Turkish or Bolivian, Canadian or Irish, American or Chinese, or....

None of the nationalities or states of this world, past, present, or future have any bearing on a persons state of being right with God. Apart from God, there is no such thing as righteousness. Righteousness does not exist as a concept without a standard of perfection that man cannot conceive or achieve.

These nugget verses about righteousness set the stage for the whole of the book of Romans. As such we do well to focus on various themes mentioned here like – what the gospel is – who the gospel is for – Paul’s personal attachment to the gospel – what the relationship of faith and the gospel are to salvation and righteousness.

Let’s narrow our focus to how it is we come to know God and His righteousness. It comes in only one way, it is revealed! It is revealed in the gospel! We do not come to this understanding by our own efforts or power. God has chosen to use the whole gospel to reveal His righteousness to His creation.

For us to try and know God's righteousness in any other way is futile. It is not known through His creation, though He created it good, very good we’re told in Genesis. Though we cherish, admire, study, dissect and revere God's creation, that is not where we find or see His righteousness. It also does not come to us by the knowledge of nature or creation. Again, we can learn of God and his creativeness, His inventiveness, His wild imagination from creation, but not His righteousness.

Also His righteousness is not known by special knowledge or secret wisdom. That is, it is not a code that needs to be broken by the mind of man. Further righteousness is not uncovered by the sheer power of will, intellect, or comprehension. If we are honest, we can only admit that we desire and long for righteousness, even though we cannot truly understand it.

And that leads us to the cross and the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the verses today we’re told that *in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed*. There on the cross we see God's perfection on display. We see His perfect love and wrath, His perfect holiness and vengeance on sin in action. We, by the gospel, that good news that Jesus has accomplished the task of the propitiation of our sin, have the righteousness of God revealed to us. it is there, and only there, that we are given to see and have our eyes opened to what the righteousness of God both requires and delivers to us. we could not conceive of such a thing. Never doubt that no longer is the righteousness of God hidden. No, it is only by God’s revelation there at Golgotha, that the fullness and wholeness of His righteousness is revealed.

**APPLICATION -**

1. Have you ever been in a maze and gotten lost? There is only one way out of being lost and that is by having the way out revealed. Once truly lost we cannot free ourselves. That is the nature of revelation, it is not something you do for yourself it is given to you, shown to you, unfolded for you. Such is the gospel for us.

**PRAY** – O Lord, Jesus Christ, continue to reveal to Your creation the love and righteousness of God the Father through Your Gospel. We pray in Your strong name, Amen.