

**Righteousness and Holiness**  
**Yirmeyah Tan, 16 December 2025**

**Shalom.**

Today our topic for sharing is “**Righteousness and Holiness**”. Let me begin by quoting from **Rom 3:20-26** –

***Rom 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

*Rom 3:21* But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

*Rom 3:22* Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

*Rom 3:23* For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

*Rom 3:24* **Being justified** freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

*Rom 3:25* Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to **declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God;

*Rom 3:26* **To declare**, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Then **Rom 5:19** –

***Rom 5:19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many **be made righteous**.*

Then turn to **2Co 6:17-18** -

***2Co 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

***2Co 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Then **2Co 7:1** –

***2Co 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

I am going to take you quite a journey all the way from predestination to glorification in the life of a follower of Christ.

## I. Predestination To Glorification

- a. Foreknowledge
- b. Predestinated
- c. Called
- d. Justified
- e. Holy and without blame
- f. Glorified [Adoption as sons]

We are going to deal with subjects like the foreknowledge of God, predestination, what it means to be called, justified, holy and without blame and then glorified or glorification adoption of sons. The first one is foreknowledge, what is foreknowledge of God? We turn to **Isa 46:9-10** –

## II. Foreknowledge

**Isa 46:9** *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,*

**Isa 46:10** **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:**

It tells us very clearly that Yahweh can see the end from the beginning. He knows exactly the decisions that we make today, tomorrow and in the future. All our actions and motives are laid bare before Him. He knows the end, the conclusion and what is going to happen to our lives whether we make it safely to heaven to His kingdom. That is foreknowledge. The next concept that we have to grapple with is the concept of predestination.

## III. Predestination

**Rom 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

**Rom 8:30** *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

It is marvelous when you think about it that He knew us and all about us before the foundation of the world. In His plan and purpose, He already predestinated those of us who are to be conformed to the image of His son so that He can adopt us into His family and glorify us along with His Son Jesus Christ. Then of course, He predestinated those that He has called and those He has justified and later sanctified and then glorified. Note the various stages: called, justified, sanctified and glorified. What does it mean to be called? In **Joh 6:44-45** -

## IV. Called

**Joh 6:44** ***No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.***

**Joh 6:45** *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

They are awesome verses: none of us can come to Yeshua and accept Him as our Lord and Savior without the Father drawing us to Him and without the Father foreordaining before the earth was formed that we will be called. The word called really means invited. Look at the implications of being called by Yahweh and not being called by Yahweh. What is the difference? In **1Co 1:22-24** –

**1Co 1:22** *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*

**1Co 1:23** *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*

**1Co 1:24** **But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

He is talking about the gospel, when we preach the gospel why do so many people reject the gospel and so few people respond? Those people who respond, how do they respond, what impelled them to respond? 1Cor 1:24 says unto them which are called, the gospel speaks of Christ, the power of God, the wisdom of God, the provision of God for our salvation. Let's turn to another passage in **Act 16:14** –

**Act 16:14** *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

**Note: only those who are called will accept the Gospel. So do not be surprised that most people will reject the Gospel**

Next, let's come to the concept of justification.

## **V. Justified**

**Rom 3:23** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Rom 3:24** **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**

**Rom 3:25** *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the **remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God;*

**Rom 3:26** *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Justification is the work of grace of Yahweh Himself. We find the forgiveness of sins that are past, notice in Rom 3:25 remission of sins that are past. It is just as if I had never sinned against Him. Of course, in coming to Christ, we are to repent that we have broken His laws and He will justify us and wash us clean of all sins up to that point in time.

Next, we deal with the most important topic of sanctification: to be holy and without blame.

## **VI. Sanctification: Holy and Without Blame**

**1Pe 1:1** *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*

**1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.**

Sanctification by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can be obedient and the blood of Yeshua can be sprinkled upon us to cleanse us.

**a. Chosen to be holy: sanctification by the Spirit**

**Rom 8:12** *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*

**Rom 8:13** *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

**Rom 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Two important things to note here: firstly, it is the Holy Spirit that gives us power over sin. Remember that, as long as we live, we are living in the presence of sin. Can we overcome sin on our own? The answer is no! Only by the power of the Spirit can you mortify, put to death the deeds of the body. When the Spirit leads us, we are the sons of God. Secondly, to avoid condemnation, and to be in Christ, we need to walk in the Spirit. Here you should do well to get the correct verses in **Rom 8:1-2** otherwise you will fall into false doctrine -

1. The Holy Spirit gives us power over sin.
2. To avoid condemnation, walk in the Spirit

**Rom 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

**Rom 8:2** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

What exactly is the Law of Sin and Death? Look at **Gen 2:17** the warning by Yahweh to Adam and Eve –

**Gen 2:17** *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

3. The Holy Spirit frees us from the law of sin and death

**Rom 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Let's go to the next one; command to be holy.

4. Command to be holy:

**1Pe 1:13** *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

**1Pe 1:14** *As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*

1Pe 1:15 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.*

1Pe 1:16 *Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

A lot of Christians have no clue about what it means to be holy.

- a. Commandment: No Unclean Food

**Lev 11:46** ***This is the law** of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:*

**Lev 11:47** ***To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.***

- b. No unclean sex. No sex during a woman's menstrual period and no unclean sexual relationships-Lev18
- c. Holiness also means separation or sanctification

**2Co 6:17** *Wherefore come out from among them, and **be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing**; and I will receive you,*

**2Co 6:18** *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

**2Co 7:1** *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

**Note: uncleanness is the opposite of holiness.**

For your information, uncleanness is a work of the flesh. Paul has a long list of works of the flesh and uncleanness is one of them. Uncleanness is repeated many times in the New Testament.

- d. Next, there is a Highway of Holiness which is not for the unclean.

**Isa 35:8** *And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called **The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it**; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.*

Look for the Highway of Holiness: that is the way to Heaven. Yeshua says I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except by me. The Highway with Holiness is to walk with Yeshua.

- e. Holiness or sanctification is necessary for salvation.

**Heb 12:14** *Follow **peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord**:*

The implication is that, without peace and holiness, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Next, I want to talk about an important subject of justification without sanctification. Many preachers do not preach sanctification because obedience to Yahweh's commandments or the Law is required.

## VII. Justification Without Sanctification

- a. Many preachers do not preach sanctification because obedience to YAHWEH's commandments [Law] is required.
- b. Yes, we are not saved by "works of the Law":

**Gal 2:15** *We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners.*

**Gal 2:16** *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

That is correct! You cannot come to Yeshua with self-justification; you cannot come to Yeshua and say I try to obey your laws. They are called works of the law. You cannot be self-righteous and come to Yeshua. It is the law that gives the knowledge of sin. How else would a sinner recognize sin and then the need to repent. However, obedience is necessary for sanctification: so after being justified we got to learn to obey him. Look at **1Jn 5:1-3** –

### c. Obedience is necessary for sanctification

**1Jn 5:1** *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

**1Jn 5:2** **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

**1Jn 5:3** *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

#### **Note:**

- 1. loving God and loving our neighbors are the two summary commandments that embody the 10 Commandments.**
- 2. We cannot know God unless we keep His Commandments:**

Loving God involves the first set of four commandments; loving your neighbor involves the last six of the 10.

We cannot know God unless we keep his Commandments. Look at the **1Jn 2:3-6** –

**1Jn 2:3** *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

**1Jn 2:4** **He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

**1Jn 2:5** *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

**1Jn 2:6** *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

Question: How did Yeshua walk? Did He obey God, obey all the commandments? The answer must say yes. In fact, He is the only one who has been able to perfectly obey Yahweh and that is why He could die for us on the cross to offer atonement for us.

3. **Joseph Prince** is the extreme example of teaching justification without sanctification. He dismissed the two Great Commandments of Love as “Law”. His definition of grace is simply “unmerited favour” but ignores the divine power and influence of the Holy Spirit in sanctification. He teaches his followers to simply rest in the finished work of Christ. The tragedy is that neither he nor his followers will enter into His rest because of unbelief and failure to pursue holiness.
4. When we come to Christ all our past sins are wiped away but, contrary to Joseph Prince, we still need to deal with present and future sins:

Look at **Rom 3:25** that we quoted earlier –

**Rom 3:25** *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God*

Then turn to **1Jn 1:8-9** –

**1Jn 1:8** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*  
**1Jn 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

5. **Joseph Prince** dismissed 1John as a “gnostic heresy”! [Gnostics conceived of the universe as divided into two realms: the present visible world, of matter, dark and evil, and a spiritual world of light and good.] He believes that when a person comes to Christ all his sins, past, present and future are taken care of. He misconstrues the finished work of Christ on the cross to mean the actual status of believers.

I give you a concrete example of this in **Joh 1: 29** -

**Joh 1:29** *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

What a clear statement that He died on the cross to take away the sin of the world.

Next, we come to the final stage: adoption as Sons or glorification as the Bible also puts:

### **VIII. Adoption as Sons [Glorification] Requires Sanctification**

- a. Greek ‘Uihos’: mature son of God, like Yeshua

You may not realize it but sanctification is Yahweh doing a work by His Holy Spirit in our lives to help us conform to the image of His son Yeshua: to have His character and likeness so that one day He can see fit to adopt us as His sons and daughters.

Now look at this verse in **1Jn 3:2-3** –

b. Purify yourselves

**1Jn 3:2** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*  
**1Jn 3:3** *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

That is right: we need to purify ourselves. What does it mean to purify? It comes from the Greek word 'hagnizo' G48 and it means to make clean, to sanctify and purity. In other words, we need to be sanctified and purified to become sons of God.

Lastly let me deal with a question of what is positional in Christ and what is the actuality in our lives? Let's take righteousness: we are told we have to be in Christ so as to have His righteousness imputed to us, just like Abraham. However, the word 'imputed' does not mean actual: it is actually positional: it is attributed; it is declared. You and I are declared righteous when we came to Christ; our position in Him is righteous because He is righteous. But it will be foolish to think and say that, from the moment I accepted Christ and got justified by Him, I am righteous.

Look at **1Jn 3:7** –

c. In Christ: Actual-the practice of righteousness

**1Jn 3:7** *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

The word doeth is a Greek word 'poieo', it means practice or to commit. You practice sin: 'poieo', you practice righteousness: 'poieo'. We are told do not simply assume your righteous in Christ: we have to walk in righteousness as led by the Holy Spirit. Finally go to **1Jn 3:10** -

**1Jn 3:10** *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

Note that whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God. Joseph Prince can claim that he is righteous until he is blue in the face; he will not be righteous before God because he does not practice righteousness and teach his people to practice righteousness. Similarly, if we do not love our brother and love our neighbor as ourselves we are not of God

Shalom.