

*Scripture Reading:*

**Psalm 51**

**God's Gracious  
Provision of His  
Righteousness to  
Believers (Part 2)**

# REVIEW

## ◇ Definition of righteousness:

◇ Acting rightly, being correct in

◇ Opinion

◇ Activity

## ◇ God is eternally righteous – Ps 119:142

◇ Therefore, His righteousness is one of His 7 eternal attributes

# INTRODUCTION

- ◆ **God is righteous in all His ways – Ps 145:17**
  - ◆ Therefore, God sets the standard of ALL opinions and activities concerning what is RIGHT and what is WRONG
- ◆ **Fallen mankind has developed its own standards of righteousness, contrary to God's standard.**
  - ◆ Therefore, man's righteousness is unrighteous
    - ◆ Isa 64:6, Rom 3:10

# MAN'S NEED OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- ◇ Man's need of God's righteousness
  - ◇ Problem stated: All mankind has fallen short of God's glory, i.e. His righteous opinion
    - ◇ Rom 3:23
  - ◇ Problem illustrated: Adam and Eve acted wrongly in relation to God's one command for them
    - ◇ Cain's unrighteous works were malignantly evil – I Jn 3:1
  - ◇ Man's need stated: “to be declared righteous from all things”
    - ◇ Our unrighteous opinions and actions – Acts 13:39

# GOD'S PROVISION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO MAN

NOT through our attempt to act correctly - Titus 3:5, cf Rom 3:14-20

- **But through faith in God's promise(s)**
- **And through imputation from God**

Provision of righteousness for the OT Believer

- **Past-tense OT salvation:**
  - **Abraham imputed righteous by God - Gen 15:6, Rom 4:1-3**
    - **By believing God's promise, God counted his faith for righteousness**

# GOD'S PROVISION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO MAN (continued)

## Present-tense OT salvation

- David imputed righteousness by God – apart from works – after he committed two capital crimes (adultery and murder) - Rom 4:6, cf Ps 32:1; 51:1-12
  - David's plea for complete forgiveness – Ps 51:15-17
  - God's imputation of righteousness based on David's recognition of God's righteous requirements
    - David had finally acted right concerning his sin
- All OT individuals called "just" have been imputed as "righteous" by God

# CONCLUSION

- ◆ The ONLY way to become righteous before God in the OT was the be imputed as righteous!
- ◆ That, also, is the only way to become righteous before God in the NT, but by a new and far more intimate way – through our position in Christ.