

## Theme 7, Part 4: God Demands a Righteous People

*"Righteousness is not a matter of rule-keeping,  
but a total devotion to the will of God."*

### 🕯️Prayer

#### Psalm 46 (NRSV)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

*God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.*

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*  
Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
*He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.*

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

### 🕯️How is Jesus effective in making people righteous?

*The early church lives centered on the passion of Jesus, included in these two tasks:*

1. *Outreaching mission (the unhindered Gospel)*
2. *Regeneration: What happens once you have heard and received the good news?*
  - a. *A Nearly Unlimited List of Analogies: Regeneration, salvation, redemption, reconciliation, restoration, liberation, adoption, justification, sanctification...*
  - b. *No one word, metaphor, phrase or image is enough to explain or exhaust the meaning of salvation*

"Jesus Saves."

#### A. The Vocabulary of Salvation

*SOZO, sozo (to save, to heal)*

*SOTER, soter (savior, healer)*

#### B. The Salvation Process

- a. The Human Situation
- b. God's Action
- c. The Result
- d. Human Response

#### C. Salvation in Three Tenses

- a.
- b.
- c.

How is Jesus effective in making people righteous?

## 📌 Enter Paul (page 168)

### Read Acts 15:1-35

1. What is the issue at the Jerusalem Council?
2. What are the positions of the two sides?
3. Why do they feel this is necessary?
4. What problems might arise if each group prevails?
5. What possible alternatives are available to end the conflict?

### Paul: Key Passages on Freedom, Righteousness, Law, Grace, Responsibility

Acts 13:38-41

Galatians 3:1-14, 15-29; 5:1-6, 13-15

Romans 1:1-17; 2:12-16; 3:21-31; 12:1-13

## 📌 Paul's Letters

1 Thessalonians AD 49-51

Acts 17:1-9

1 Thes 2:2

1 Thes 1:1; cf. Acts 18:5

Galatians AD 52-55

Acts 16:8; 18:23; 20:31

1 Corinthians AD 54-55

1 Cor 16:1, 8

Acts 18:1-18

2 Corinthians AD 55-56

Philippians AD 55

Acts 16:12-40

Phil 3:2, 17-19

Philemon?

Phlm 9

Romans AD 56

Colossians AD 55?

Ephesians AD 62?

2 Thessalonians

1 & 2 Timothy

Titus