

## RIGHTEOUSNESS-CONSCIOUSNESS

Elaine McLachlan Sept 2012

As we talk to people in the street we are told over and over again about the need to be a good person. The obvious question is "what is a good person?" The Bible clearly states that no-one is good because only God is good.

We are evangelists, fully persuaded of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who came to save us from (the consequences of) sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Jesus said that it is good that He goes away (to the right hand of the Father in Heaven) so that the Holy Spirit will come to us, to convict (convince) the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment. Therefore everyone should feel guilt in these matters, but it is what we do about this guilt that gives God the opportunity to transform the life of those who are so precious to Him that He sent Jesus to die on their behalf.

To put it very simply, we want to avail ourselves of the righteousness that God supernaturally imparts to those who exercise faith that what God has said is true (or we do not). If we choose to accuse ourselves about being a sinner, which the devil is really happy to hear, instead of receiving the good news gladly we are no better than the Israelites mentioned in Romans 10. These did not know the righteousness that comes from God and chose to establish their own.

The sheer beauty of receiving the righteousness that God gives through the death of His dear Son is that whatever we have done or not done counts for absolutely nothing and the righteousness that God gives is everything. Every day we can confess our mistakes and be filled with His righteousness and love, looking to Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. We can submit to His disciplining until there is no more "lameness", harvesting righteousness and peace in our lives.

We can therefore focus on what Jesus has done for us as His priceless gift, or we can focus on our inadequacy to meet God's command of holiness. The wrong focus will make all the difference in our walk with God and our ability to shed abroad the love of God which the Holy Spirit has put into our hearts when we first believed. The wrong focus will cripple our effectiveness to make Jesus the "Light of the world" to others. It has certainly turned very many off the church, even though so many want to know how to have access to God.

To be SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST is the most powerful force for good in the world and, for the professing Christian, a reason to shout it from the roof tops.