

Revealing the Life of Christ #3

The Wheel of Faith

Big Idea

Romans 5:17 says “ For if by the one man’s offence death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of Righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ” What is this gift of righteousness, and how does it relate to the plan of salvation?

Jesus lived a perfect human life so that His righteousness might stand in place of ours. The gospel provides not only forgiveness, but righteousness received by faith.

Why This Study Matters

Many Christians trust Christ’s death but quietly rely on their own lives for acceptance with God. This lesson restores the full gospel by showing that Christ did not only die for us—He lived for us. Forgiveness alone does not meet God’s requirement for salvation. This study shows how Christ’s life provides what we could never produce, allowing faith to rest fully in His Righteousness.

Opening Frame — Why Christ’s Life Matters

Intro:

Most Christians affirm the cross, yet Scripture teaches that forgiveness alone does not meet the law’s demand for righteousness. God requires a perfect life as well as a sacrificial death.

Group Question:

- When you think about salvation, do you think more about Jesus’ death—or His life?

1. The Revelation of Righteousness

Read: Romans 7:12; Matthew 5:17

Key Truths:

- God’s law reflects His holy character.
- The law requires perfect righteousness, not merely forgiven failure.

Group Questions:

- Why must righteousness be fulfilled, not just guilt removed? Answer: See Genesis 2:16 it was the original condition for eternal life
- How does Christ's life answer what the law requires?

Theological guardrail:

The law does not lower its standard to save sinners. In the gospel, God meets His own standard on humanity's behalf through Christ's obedience.

2. Perfect righteousness revealed

Read: Romans 3:21-28; Hebrews 4:15

Key Truths:

- Christ lived as a true human, not as a detached divine being.
- His obedience was real, dependent, and faithful.

Group Questions:

- According to Romans 3 whose righteous is God looking for Jesus or ours?
- Was his righteousness able to satisfy all the demand of God for us for eternal life?
- What is the significance of Hebrews 4:15?
- How does Matthew 3:15 reassure us?

Theological guardrail: Scripture emphasizes that Christ depended on the Father through prayer and faith. His obedience was genuine and therefore can stand in our place. However, because Jesus kept the law does not mean that we do not have to. More on this in a future lesson.

3. How do we receive his righteousness?

Read: Romans 1:17; Romans 5:19

Key Truths:

- Christ's obedience is credited to believers by faith, and it is called a gift.

Group Questions:

- How do we receive the righteousness of Christ for salvation?
- Why is faith the only appropriate response?

Theological Guardrail:

Justification does not make us righteous by transformation first; it declares us righteous because Christ's life stands in for ours.

4. The Life of Christ and Justification

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9

Key Truths:

- Christ takes our sin; we receive His righteousness.
- Acceptance with God rests entirely on Christ's life and death.

Group Questions:

- How does Christ's life give assurance before God?
- Where do you still feel pressure to prove yourself?
- What does Romans 3:31 mean?

Theological guardrail: *"Does this mean obedience doesn't matter?"* Obedience matters as fruit, not as the ground of acceptance. Christ's life establishes our standing; the Spirit produces obedience in response.

5. Christ-Centered Reflection — Beholding His Righteousness

Companion Reading — "By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the law... He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the law... I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness."

— *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 396

Group Questions:

- How does Christ's life answer every demand of the law?
 - What does it mean to be 'complete in Him'?
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Closing Emphasis

Christ's life is not merely an example to admire—it is a righteousness to receive. When faith rests in His obedience, assurance replaces striving and obedience flows from gratitude.

Experiential Reality — The Life of Christ

A 7-Day Journey of Beholding His Righteousness

We are not transformed by imitation alone, but by **beholding Christ in faith**. As we look to His life, the Spirit reveals both our need and God's provision.

Day 1 — Behold Christ's Humanity

- **Scripture:** John 1:14
- **Practice:** Reflect on the reality that Jesus lived fully as a human being.
- **Reflection:** How does Christ's humanity make His righteousness meaningful for me?

Prayer time: pray about what came to your mind during this reflection period

Day 2 — Behold Christ's Dependence on the Father

- **Scripture:** Mark 1:35
- **Practice:** Notice Christ's prayer life and dependence.
- **Reflection:** Where do I rely on self rather than God?

Prayer time: ask God to reveal to you where you might be relying on your own works or character, and then affirm your reliance on Christ to God.

Day 3 — Behold Christ's Obedience

- **Scripture:** Romans 5:19
- **Practice:** Reflect on obedience as trust, not mere rule-keeping.
- **Reflection:** How does Christ's obedience differ from my typical view of obedience?

Prayer Time: This is a good time to seek God to help you have a reflection of Jesus obedience in your own life.

Day 4 — Behold Christ's Victory Over Temptation

- **Scripture:** Hebrews 4:15
- **Practice:** Reflect on Christ's temptation without sin.
- **Reflection:** How does knowing Christ faced temptation encourage my faith?

Prayer Time: seek God at this time to deliverer you from any temptations you may be experiencing.

Day 5 — Behold Christ's Righteousness Given to Me

- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:21

- **Practice:** Rest in the truth that Christ's righteousness is credited to you.
- **Reflection:** Where am I still trying to prove myself before God?

Prayer Time: give him thanks today in prayer for this gift of righteousness.

Day 6 — Behold Christ as My Only Merit

- **Scripture:** Philippians 3:9
- **Practice:** Release reliance on personal performance.
- **Reflection:** What competes with Christ as my source of acceptance?

Prayer Time: ask God to reveal any subtle reliance, for salvation, on our righteousness that we might have placed confidence in.

Day 7 — Rejoice in Christ's Righteous Life

- **Scripture:** Romans 3:25-26
- **Practice:** Thank God for Christ's life lived in your place.
- **Reflection:** How does assurance change the way I live and obey?

Prayer Time: ask God to allow the righteousness' life of Jesus to influence you today.

Experiential Summary Statement

Christ's life is not merely an example to admire—it is a gift to receive. As we behold His righteousness, faith replaces striving and assurance replaces fear.