

**“Wine and Milk Without Money”—Part Three**  
**“No Shame at All”**

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☞ **Bruce Sterling:** Nothing “. . . is ever going [to] make us magnificent or spiritual when we lack the will, vision, and appetite for spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.” ([www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com))

- ▼ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

☞ **Romans 1:1, 16, 17**

- ▼ The R-word of “spiritual magnificence”: \_\_\_\_\_
- ▼ Romans 1:16, 17 is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.
  - And the theme text of these theme verses is Habakkuk \_\_\_\_\_ : “The righteous will live by \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Both Habakkuk and Paul are championing the great theme of “\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - But there’s no point in contemplating “righteousness by faith” until we can come to grips with the R-word itself.

☞ **What is the meaning of the R-word?**

- ▼ Isaiah 45:24—“In the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ are righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_.”
- ▼ Jeremiah 12:1—“You are \_\_\_\_\_ righteous, O LORD.”
- ▼ Psalm 71:15—“My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your \_\_\_\_\_ all day long, though I know not its \_\_\_\_\_.”
- ▼ Psalm 145:17—“The LORD is righteous in \_\_\_\_\_ his ways, and \_\_\_\_\_ toward all he has made.”
- ▼ Isaiah 24:16—“From the ends of the earth we hear singing: ‘Glory to the \_\_\_\_\_ One.’”
- ▼ Daniel 9:7—“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with \_\_\_\_\_.”
- ▼ Exodus 9:27—““The LORD is in the \_\_\_\_\_ [KJV—righteous], and I and my people are in the \_\_\_\_\_ (KJV—wicked).”
- ▼ Zephaniah 3:5—“The LORD within her is righteous; he does no \_\_\_\_\_. Morning by morning he dispenses his \_\_\_\_\_, and every new day he does not \_\_\_\_\_.”
- ▼ Psalm 89:14—“Righteousness and justice are the \_\_\_\_\_ of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”
- ▼ Isaiah 5:16—“But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the \_\_\_\_\_ God will show himself \_\_\_\_\_ by his righteousness.”

- ▼ *So what do we know thus far about the R-word?*
  - Emil Brunner: “Righteousness, therefore, is simply the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, as it expressed toward his created world or toward anything apart from himself.” (*The Christian Doctrine of God* 278)
  - Ellen White: “Righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_, likeness to God, and ‘God is love.’ . . . Righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_, and love is the light and the life of God.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* 18)
  - The R-word, in fact in its quintessence, is \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

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Then why did Martin Luther have such struggle over “the righteousness of God?”

- ▼ “I greatly longed to understand Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, ‘the justice [righteousness] of God,’ because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore, I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him.” (Roland Bainton *Here I Stand* 49)
- ▼ Do we live with a very similar struggle?
  - Jeff VanVonderen—*Tired of Trying to Measure Up: Getting Free from the Demands, Expectations, and Intimidations of Well-meaning People*.
  - \_\_\_\_\_-based systems are based upon \_\_\_\_\_.
  - “We all need an environment where we feel our needs are met because of who we are and not because of what we do. In shame-based relationships, value and acceptance are earned on the basis of performance. Performance, however, always seems to fall short of the standard, giving us the message, ‘You are defective and inadequate.’ Eventually, we become ingrained with a need to measure up. What follows is more impotent performance, which generates even more shame. And on it goes.” (41)
  - “We’re often taught that acceptability comes from ‘useful’ religious performance that lives up to the expectations of our particular religious community. And since human performance is an inadequate, false means to acquire value, it *always* falls short. Someone is always displeased, and even if *he* isn’t dissatisfied, *we* are. We simply can’t act perfectly enough.” (42)
- ▼ No “shame-based system” with Paul—“I am not ashamed!”
  - For “the righteous will live by faith”—not by shame, nor by performance.
  - Luther: “Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice [righteousness] of God and the statement that ‘the just shall live by his faith.’ Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies [saves] us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors to paradise.” (Bainton 49)

- ▼ **John Stott notes that “the righteousness of God” is all of these:**
  - It is a divine \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - It is a divine \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - It is a divine \_\_\_\_\_ .
- ▼ **No shame at all!**
  - *Because the truth of the gospel is that the performance that matters is \_\_\_\_\_ performance—not yours.*
  - *The truth of the gospel is that the righteousness that counts is \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness—not yours.*

## **“The righteous will live by faith.”**

Magnificence, Righteousness, heart, soul, 2:4, faith, righteousness, faith, alone, strength, always, salvation, measure, all, loving, Righteous, shame, right, wrong, wrong, justice, fail, foundation, holy, holy, holiness, holiness, Almighty, God, Shame, performance, attribute, activity, achievement, Jesus', God's