

2Samuel 22:21–28

“How to Plead Our Righteousness before God in Prayer”

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| 21 “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness;
According to the cleanness of my hands
He has recompensed me. | 26 “With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;
With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; |
| 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
And have not wickedly departed from my God. | 27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure;
And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. |
| 23 For all His judgments were before me;
And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. | 28 You will save the humble people;
But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them
down. |
| 24 I was also blameless before Him,
And I kept myself from my iniquity. | |
| 25 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my
righteousness,
According to my cleanness in His eyes. | |

Main Idea: Through faith in Christ, we may plead our righteousness before God, because Christ’s obedience has been counted for us as if we had done it; because Christ Himself is our righteousness, and we can pray in union with Him; and, because whatever true righteousness has come out of our sanctification is the fruit of the same saving work, and rewarded by God not for its merit but by grace (for Christ’s merit).

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Second Samuel. 22 versus 21 through 28. Let's ask for God's help.

Oh God. You are our help with you. We can leap over a wall or bend above bronze. And yet it is only with you that we can hear rightly with right hearts your own word. And so we look to you, we ask especially for the almighty working of your spirit to help us in the hearing of your Word.

We do pray for our brother Peter right now as well, that as he thinks about your word or whatever opportunity he has to read it, that your spirit would help him and bring it home with power and give him the strength that is from God Almighty. So help us by the same old money strength, now and the preaching.

And in the hearing we ask in Jesus name. Amen, second Samuel, 22 versus 21 through 28. These are God's words. Y'all, who rewarded me. According to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands. He has recompensed me for, I have kept the ways of Yahweh and have not wickedly departed.

From my God, for all his judgments were before me. And as for his statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before him and I kept myself from iniquity, therefore, you always has recompensed me. According to my righteousness, according to my cleanness, and his eyes. With the merciful, you will show yourself merciful with the blameless, man.

You will show yourself blameless with the pure. You will show yourself pure one. With the devious you will show yourself, fruit. You will say the humble people but your eyes are on the haughty that you may bring them down.

So far the reading of God's inspired and an errant word. You can see in the last three verses there, the justness of God. He is righteous when we see him, merciful to those who are merciful, that sense of justice, that he is put in us agrees with that. We say, yes, that's who should be shown mercy and with the blameless, he shows himself blameless and with the pure shows himself pure and then with the devious, God himself is more clever than they are.

And he will bring it down upon them. He says those who lower themselves and he brings down those who raise themselves up. He is just he is righteous. Now, we in ourselves are not, and that's why this section that is bookended with verses 21 and verse 25. Need some explaining verse 21, begins y'all away a court, rewarded me a according to my righteousness in verse 25.

Therefore, you always has reckoned pinched me, according to my righteousness verse 21, according to the cleanness of my hands. Here's where convinced me verse 25. According to my cleanness, in his eyes. How can a sinner price such a thing? How can we cry out to God? As the Psalms elsewhere, cry out and in asking requesting, Lord, deal with me according to my righteousness.

According to my cleanness. Well, there are three ways and they apply to us as they apply to David as marvelous because when you have this in psalm 18, you're maybe not remembering Bathsheba and Uriah and

all of the sin and folly that came in the fallout failing, to deal with Amin and failing to deal with Absalom and so forth.

But here, the Holy Spirit gives us this psalm at the end of the David material. And, you know, you had the climax, you know, about nine chapters into second Samuel and then it is all been downhill for the last dozen or so chapters. He's a, how can David pray this?

We could pray it in three ways and we can pray it in three ways. First, we can say it in union with Christ because if you believe in Jesus children, God says that Jesus is your righteousness. Not just that. Jesus is righteous in your behalf but that you are righteous with Jesus's righteousness.

A man who saw, well, he doesn't need to be anonymous. I don't mind honoring my father, my father, likes to one up. Those theological, gotcha. People you say, how are you doing? You say, oh, I'm good. And they say, I know what is good but God and my daddy likes to say, no, I'm good because I'm in Union Jesus Christ and that goodness is every bit as much mind as if I had done it myself and that's the declaration of God and he doesn't say this.

He says, so you could take your whole year than that reform. Theologyness. And try to get a little bit more reformed. Please, Jesus is our righteousness so that if you believe in Jesus, you are as righteous as Jesus before, God, and holding on to Jesus. With one hand you can actually pray you.

Well here you can actually prays your way has dealt with me according to my righteousness. So that's one way. They the other way we've already touched on a little bit and that is that Jesus himself as a person is our righteousness. So, not only am I righteous with Jesus's righteousness, but you remember that.

Jesus is the primary singer of the songs that he is as was said of his father David. The sweet psalmist of Israel that they are his songs and his prayers and that there are things in there about sinfulness and forgiveness that he sings and praise and union with us and rejoices over the privilege, he has the charge that he has from his father to lay down his life for the sheep, and the delight that has father has in that for this reason.

My father loves me that I laid down my life for the sheep, but everywhere you get to a part in a psalm where you're singing something that. Yeah, really, doesn't belong to sinners. You can say, not only does this belong to me because I have Christ, but you also say this belongs to Christ.

You're a choice in the righteousness of Jesus. That's so marvelous to read the gospels. And think about every situation that Jesus has ever been in, and know that his thoughts were perfectly, right? Just thoughts and his feelings were perfectly righteous feelings and his intentions and his desires, and his pleasures to say nothing of this words, and this actions and you prays Christ for our perfectly righteous.

He is sometimes I think when believers have difficulty with the first way in which we can say this, I am righteous because Jesus is righteousness, is mine. One of the ways we can be helped is by thinking about how righteous Jesus actually is, and praising him for it. And so, the first way is us singing it in union with Christ because we have his righteousness as our very own.

The second way is recognizing that this is perfectly describing him. And the third way is God, has already started working out in believers. According to the character of Christ, this is one of the one of the best parts of Romans 8:28. Most people like the God works all things together for good part, but we should rejoice over all of it for those who love him.

How could it be that there are those who love him? We don't in our own original nature, love him. The fact that we do at all and I know it's a little and it's small. And a great part of your loving him is grieving over how small your love for him is, but even that grief comes from love for him and that didn't come from you, that came from God, and it didn't come from God in a vacuum.

It came from God in his Son, because his son loves him and it is his son to whom believers are being conformed. That's how you get from 28 to 29 in Romans 8, who love him, house possible. That who are the called, according to his purpose. What are those?

What is that purpose? For those? Who he for you. He also predestined that they would be conformed to the image of his son so that he would be the firstborn among many brethren and his son loves him. That's why love for him is the first part of starting to be conformed to the image of Lord Jesus Christ.

And so there were throughout David's life, all sorts of love for God's name and doing the right thing under horrible, amounts of pressure and refusing to lift his finger against the Lord's anointed and standing up to to listens. And not you know, to show off for himself like has eldest brother thought.

But because he was indignant that someone would profane the name of Yahweh and every one of those things was produced in him from Christ. The Holy Spirit gave that to him in response to Jesus and from the life

and character of the Lord Jesus. And the same is true with every bit of integrity on your part.

Now that last way of praying it, you're going to have a hard time with if you're not keeping short accounts with God, if you're not coming to him to cleanse your conscience, confessing how you've been sinning, embracing his forgiveness and rejoicing over what remains many of us do this right at the end of our day or whenever you stop and you pray, you say thank you, Lord for your patience with me since the last time I I prayed because I've sinned against you so much.

And here I am again, but I'm here through Christ. I'm here through his blood and forgive all that has come from me all the sin since the last time. But oh, Lord, it has an open sin. Thank you. And I praise you for all that you helped me think and say, and do that, it was good because I know that came only from Jesus and bless it.

Make it fruitful bring on, or to your name. Do your people good? Do me. Good through all of those things and as you keep that clear conscience before God not me. A continuing, the you, we love to sing Psalm 32, right? Not continuing until he has to dry up all the vitality in your being.

So you finally come kicking and screaming to confess your sin and find out full forgiveness again. But that does two things. One, it keeps you repentant and marveling over forgiveness but to it reminds you that there is that genuine sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit that is already started producing in.

You the righteous character of Christ and you can point to that, you can say, my conduct isn't like, it used to be and my conduct isn't like the unbelievers conduct, my hands are cleaner. Now even in my living than they were outside of Christ, there's a difference, God makes a difference.

Jesus makes a difference in the thoughts and words and actions not to what it ought to be. But just because it's small, doesn't mean that it's not real and the God who is making that difference for you, is going to give you all of the rest of what Jesus deserves for you.

So you can say, look at the difference that God is making already and you can call on his name for all of the rest of it. There is an accord won't take the time to go to Romans 2 and talk about how Paul says in his gospel, there is an accord between the righteous works of a believer and the reward that they get at the judgment.

Not because our works have earned that reward, but that the same God, who is produced, those works is pleased to give the reward that is is parallel correspondence to those works. So those are three ways that you can come, like, psalm 18. Sorry, this is, this is all 18 on as well.

But second Samuel 22 versus 21 through 28 and rejoice in and cling to the just nests of God's judgment. There's not a part of God's holy character. That a Christian can't plead for all of the blessing and help for which he looks to his God. Every part of it.

Even the justice even thought, holiness is for you, because of Jesus. It's on your side because of Jesus, that's pray.

Lord, we do. Praise you for your perfect. Holiness in your perfect. Justice. Lord. Jesus, we praise you for your perfect. Righteousness. We're amazed. We don't have a clue. What? It's like to have continually righteous thoughts and desires and emotions. And so we fold down before you and praise your, your righteousness, even in your humanity, especially in your humanity, our Lord Jesus.

We thank you. God that you have made your son to be our righteousness. Even as on the cross you made him to be our sin. And we ask that you would deal with us according to him and help us. So God grow us in conformity to Christ. So that more and more.

We see the revealing of the life and character of Jesus, even in our own thoughts and behaviors, oh, we would have done with sin already but help us. We pray Grant Brentus, increased the growth, and success and killing sin and and putting on Christ. And in walking in love as beloved children and in keeping your commands so that we can review honestly what you have been doing in our life and say the God has who has done this for us, that you will surely, you will surely deliver us from every trouble from every enemy.

And so we praise you for your righteousness. And for how you have made it. Our righteousness and we asked that you would deal with us according to that righteousness, in Jesus name, amen.