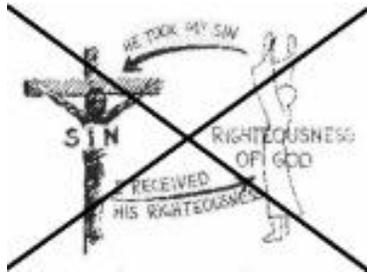


Imputed Righteousness? A Correct Understanding

by Sandra Hooper



Nowhere in the Bible does it say we are *covered* or *imputed* with *Jesus' righteousness*.

Moral character cannot be transferred.

The false doctrine of Once Saved, Always Saved (OSAS) would have us believe that ***Jesus' righteousness*** is imputed to us. Nowhere does the Bible say this. One of the Scriptures used is the phrase "***the righteousness of God.***" That says nothing of *Jesus' righteousness imputed* (they mean *transferred*) to us.

Neither sin nor righteousness can be transferred between humans or between Christ and man.

The Bible does **not** say the sins of mankind were transferred to Jesus. This would make Christ guilty of sin. Nor is it said that Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us. Christ's obedience is *non-transferable*. (John 15:10,14)

Scripture shows us that righteousness is a **personal trait** and solely belongs to the person possessing it. It is so vital we understand this that we are warned not to be deceived about this matter.

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he [Jesus] is righteous." 1 John 3:7

There is nothing about God's righteousness covering us or Jesus' righteousness imputed to us. We become righteous when we do righteousness. When we do what is right (morally right) we are righteous as He (Jesus) is righteous.

Righteousness is used as a "***moral***" term by the early believers. It is not a "legal" term as Post Reformation would have us believe. The modern term assumes that righteousness concerns primarily one's "legal standing before God" *regardless of conduct*. Scripture proves this wrong.

The early believers use the term "righteousness" ***as describing one living in accordance with God's moral requirement*** (morality). God does have a moral requirement, so conduct does matter and that is why BELIEVERS ARE WARNED who will not inherit the kingdom of God if they continue in sin (ex. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-

10; Eph. 5:3-5; Rev. 21:8). Correct conduct characterizes a person as righteous. Wrongdoing characterizes a person as a sinner (unrighteous).

When it comes to the term the "**righteousness of God**," it simply means ***a standard of conduct for humans that God considers correct***. Matthew's Gospel uses the phrase that is consistent with that meaning, and so does James. (Matt. 6:33, James 1:20)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

"For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."