There are two important principles of man's salvation which come only through Christ: justification by faith, which is our title to heaven, and sanctification by faith, which is our fitness for heaven — the one following the other in the plan of redemption. The word 'fitness' means to be made suitable, prepared and qualified, as is stated by Paul in Romans 3:24-26.

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

> *"The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven."* **(RH, June 4, 1895).**

The word 'impute' means to charge or ascribe to one's account. For example, Adam, as the head of the human race, caused every person born after him to become a sinner.

Therefore, all people who came after Adam have been credited, or imputed, with his guilt. All humans are counted as having sinned and deserving the same punishment as Adam. The imputed sin has negatively affected man's standing before God, so that he is guilty, condemned, and has become the subject of God's judgment.

> *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* **(Romans 5:18, 19).**

The word "righteousness" means being good and doing good (7MR 319.2). It is also described as holiness, or likeness to God (1 John 4:16), and conformity to His law (Psalm 119:172). God is love, and that love, which is the righteousness of God, is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Christ (FLB 109.2).

IMPUTATION IS JUSTIFICATION

Imputation, or justification, provides the foundation for impartation, or sanctification, allowing the believer to grow in grace. In other words, imputed righteousness is for our pardon, while imparted righteousness is for our purification. Imputed righteousness provides the foundation for imparted righteousness. This is to say, justification leads to sanctification.

> *"The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right — because right doing is pleasing to God."* **(COL 97.3).**

> *"Righteousness is obedience to the law. The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law; but he is incapable of rendering it. The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account …"*

FAITH ACCOUNTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

> *"Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son. This is how faith is accounted righteousness; and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light."* **(FW 101.1).**

> *"Christ has been set forth by God as the One through whom forgiveness of sins is to be obtained; and this forgiveness consists simply in the declaration of His righteousness (which is the righteousness of God) for the remission of sin. God, 'who is rich in mercy' (Eph. 2:4), and who delights in it, puts His own righteousness on the sinner who believes in Jesus, as a substitute for his sins. Hence the statement, 'the righteousness by which we are justified is imputed.'"*

PARDON IS JUSTIFICATION

> *"Pardon and justification are one and the same thing."* **(CTr 150.3).**

> *"Here the truth is laid out in plain lines. This mercy and goodness is wholly undeserved. The grace of Christ is freely to justify the sinner without merit or claim on his part. Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin."* **(OFC 290.4).**

> *"If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned."* **(SC 62.2).**

NOT A CLOAK TO COVER SINS

> *"Christ has become our sacrifice and surety. He has become sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Through faith in His name, He imputed unto us His righteousness, and it becomes a living principle in our lives."* **(RH, July 12, 1882).**

> *"The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Wholeness is wholesome for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven."* **(DA 555).**

> *"But it is only through the value of the sacrifice made for us that we are of value in the Lord's sight. It is because of*

the imputed righteousness of Christ that we are counted precious by God. For Christ's sake He pardons them that fear Him. He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner; He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son, in whom they believe. In this way only can God take pleasure in any of us." **(SpTB09 4.2).**

IMPARTATION IS SANCTIFICATION

"The righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted." **(RH, June 4, 1895).**

Imparted righteousness is the process of sanctification, where Christ's character is infused into the believer. It is demonstrated by growing in grace and following the footsteps of Christ, day by day. Arthur Daniels, in his book *Christ Our Righteousness*, writes: "Imputed righteousness, by which man is justified from guilt, is the foundation upon which imparted righteousness is bestowed, which sanctifies the life conduct, and provides our fitness for heaven." The meaning of the statement — the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted — conveys the following:

RIGHTEOUSNESS WITHIN

"Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hard-hearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ, going on from strength to strength. He who is being sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled, and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory. The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven." **(MYP 35.2).**

"Man lost his righteousness through transgression, and 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' Through the righteousness of Christ, our substitute and surety, our obedience to God's commandments is made acceptable … Through faith in Christ, man becomes partaker of the divine nature, and is complete in Him, as long as he walks in the light." **(ST, June 18, 1894, par. 4).**

"He who obeys the law through the imputed righteousness of Christ meets every claim that the Bible presents; but he who sets himself above God, and tramples upon His law, and still professes to be a child of God, is working on the enemy's side of the controversy." **(ST, October 1, 1894, par. 8).**

"It is by overcoming the world, the flesh, and the devil that any student comes into possession of that knowledge which gives him access to the tree of life. We must all learn that we must overcome as Christ overcame in our behalf. All pride is sin, and must be expelled from the soul. Christ came to cut us loose from the originator of sin; He came to give us a mastery over the power of the destroyer, and to save us from the sting of the serpent. Through His imparted righteousness He would place all human beings where they will be on vantage ground. He came to this earth and lived the law of God, that man might stand in his God-given manhood, having complete mastery over his natural inclination to self-indulgence and to the selfish ideas and principles which tarnish the soul. The Physician of soul and body, He will give wisdom and complete victory over warring lusts. He will provide every facility, that man may perfect a completeness of character in every respect." **(Ms 161, 1898, p. 1).**

A STUDY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

Imparted Righteousness

Justification by faith — our title to heaven; sanctification by faith — our fitness for heaven

"

… by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

Proclaiming justification and sanctification by faith — our title and our fitness for the kingdom of heaven.

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