

Sermon Title: **"THE ACCEPTABLE LIFE: AN UNSHAKABLE LIFE!"**
Sermon Text: **Psalms 15**

Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! FOR THOSE WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE BOOK OF PSALMS UNDER THE THEME "PONDERING THE PSALMS: FINDING MEANING & PURPOSE IN THE PANDEMIC!"

LET US READ PSALM 15 TOGETHER AGAIN!

LAST TUESDAY, THE CITY OF BEIRUT WAS ROCKED BY A BIG EXPLOSION THAT SHOOK THE CITY TO ITS CORE! THE EXPLOSION WAS SO LOUD THAT EVEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF LEBANON HEARD THE SOUND OF THE EXPLOSION. AS IF THIS TIME, THE EXPLOSION LEFT 157 DEAD (THEY ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE AMONG THE RUBLES!), MORE THAN 5,000 INJURED/HOSPITALIZED, 300,000 HOMELESS, AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PROPERTIES DAMAGED, & LEBANON'S ECONOMY CRIPPLED! THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON ARE NOW BLAMING THIS TRAGEDY TO THEIR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS & ARE PROTESTING IN THE STREETS & CALLING ON THEM TO RESIGN! ONE LEBANESE SAID THIS EXPLOSION SENT THE NATION 50 YEARS BACKWARDS BECAUSE OF ALL THIS LOSS. INDEED, THIS EXPLOSION HAS SHAKEN THE LEBANESE PEOPLE TO THEIR CORE!

CHURCH/FRIENDS, HOW IS YOUR LIFE NOWADAYS IN THIS PANDEMIC? ARE YOU BEING SHAKEN TO THE CORE BY THIS PANDEMIC? UNLIKE THE LEBANON EXPLOSION THAT SHOOK THE NATION ONE TIME, THE COVID VIRUS EXPLOSION IS STILL CONTINUING & IS STILL SHAKING PEOPLE'S LIVES IN A SUBTLE, DECEITFUL, & INSIDIOUS WAY!

PERHAPS, SOME OF US ARE SAYING "NO, I'M OKAY! I CAN MANAGE THIS. IM GOOD!" BUT THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES NOWADAYS DENIES OR CONTRADICTS WHAT WE SAY! TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO STUDY A PRAYER OF DAVID THAT WILL TEACH US HOW TO HAVE AN UNSHAKABLE LIFE! I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT WE TRULY NEED AT THIS TIME! **CAN WE PAUSE FOR PRAYER!**

OUR PSALM TODAY WILL REMIND US THAT A CRISIS SHOULD NOT CHANGE OUR ZEAL & DEVOTION TO THE LORD. IN FACT, ALL THE MORE DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME WE, CHRISTIANS & FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD JESUS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE A SANE, JOYFUL, & BALANCE ATTITUDE & PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE. I THINK THAT OF ALL PEOPLE, BELIEVERS ARE TO DEMONSTRATE A GOOD TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WATCHING WORLD! AND THAT WE SHOULD BE SHOWING TO THE PEOPLE AROUND US THAT WE ARE LIVING NOT ONLY A JOYFUL & WORSHIPFUL LIFE BUT ALSO AN UNSHAKABLE LIFE!

A. WHO IS THE PERSON **ACCEPTABLE** BEFORE THE LORD!

DAVID OPENS HIS PRAYER BY ASKING THE QUESTION – “*Lord, who can dwell in your tent? Who can live on your holy mountain?*” NOW, “TENT” ALSO MEANS “SANCTUARY” WHICH REFERS TO THE LORD’S TEMPLE. “HOLY MOUNTAIN” REFERS TO THE “DWELLING PLACE/HOUSE OF THE LORD.” **IN THIS VERSE, DAVID IS ACTUALLY ASKING HIS READERS – “WHO MAY HAVE AN INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD & ENJOY HIS PRESENCE! OR TO PUT IT IN ANOTHER WAY, “WHO IS THE ONE ACCEPTABLE BEFORE THE LORD & CAN HAVE FELLOWSHIP & ENJOY THE LORD?”**

MANY OF US HAS DREAM OF ENTERING THE WESTMINSTER CASTLE & SEE THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND & OF COURSE, KISS HER HAND. BUT HOW MUCH MORE TO SEE THE KING OF KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORD & SEE HIM FACE TO FACE!!! I THINK THIS IS THE DESIRE OF EVERY TRUE “BORN AGAIN” BELIEVER & FOLLOWER OF THE LORD JESUS. IN THE NEXT VERSES, DAVID INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD ANSWERS TO US HIS OWN QUESTION & ENUMERATES THE CHARACTER QUALITIES OF THE PERSON WHO IS ACCEPTABLE & THUS, SUCCESSFUL BEFORE THE LORD OUR GOD. I THINK THAT VERSE 2 IS THE MAIN CHARACTER QUALITY OF THIS PERSON - HE MUST BE A BLAMELESS, RIGHTEOUS PERSON! AND THE SUCCEEDING QUALITIES ARE ELABORATION OF THIS QUALITY!

1) *He is the one who lives a **blameless & righteous** life!*

“He whose walk is blameless & who does what is righteous...” (v. 2)

IN THE O.T. TO BE “BLAMELESS” MEANS TO BE “MORALLY PERFECT” OR TO HAVE “MORAL INTEGRITY/WHOLENESS.” LIKE THE SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS OFFERED TO THE LORD AT THE TEMPLE, IT IS TO BE “WITHOUT DEFECT OR SPOT.” THUS, A “BLAMELESS” IS A PERSON TO WHOM WE CANNOT CHARGE A WRONG-DOING OR GUILT. A “RIGHTEOUS” PERSON IN THE O.T. REFERS TO THE ONE WHO DOES WHAT IS MORALLY & ETHICALLY RIGHT BEFORE GOD. IN OTHER WORDS, HE PERFECTLY OBEYS THE LAWS OF THE LORD.

NOTE THAT DAVID DESIRED TO BE ALWAYS “BLAMELESS” BEFORE THE LORD BY CONFESSING HIS SINS BEFORE THE LORD!

“Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults. Moreover, keep your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule me. Then I will be blameless & cleansed from blatant rebellion.” (Psalm 19: 12-13)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, ARE WE LIVING “BLAMELESS” & “RIGHTEOUS” LIVES NOWADAYS? OR ARE WE LOWERING DOWN OUR GUARD SAYING TO OURSELVES, “PANDEMIC NAMAN, NAINTINDIHAN NI LORD!” “ITS PANDEMIC THE LORD UNDERSTANDS!”

2) *He is the one who speaks truth from the heart & a loving lips!*

“...Who speaks the truth from his heart & has no slander in his tongue!” (vv. 2-3)

TAKE NOTE THAT BEGIINING HERE PAUL WILL ELABORATE ON THIS BLAMELESS/RIGHTEOUS LIFE THAT HE’S TALKING ABOUT IN VERSE 2.

PAUL IN THE N.T., REMINDS US OF THE SAME –

“But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ... Therefore, putting away lying, speak the

truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another... No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. (Eph. 4: 15, 25, 29)

HOW IS OUR SPEECH NOWADAYS? I WANT TO ADMONISH SOME BRETHREN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE INTO FACEBOOK. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT IF WE CAN NOT AVOID OR GET OUT OF IT, LET US BE DISCRIMINATING IN WHAT WE ARE POSTING & SHARING IN THAT MEDIA. I OBSERVE THAT SOME OF US ARE SO INFLUENCE & AFFECTED BY SOME POSTINGS THAT WE ARE SUCKED INTO IT & WE ARE POSTING WORDS OR COMMENTS THAT SHOULD NOT BE HEARD FROM BELIEVERS. SOME OF US ARE BECOMING ANGRY & HATEFUL AS SEEN IN OUR POSTINGS. ALSO, FACEBOOK IS NOT OUR PERSONAL JOURNAL. LET US BE DISCREET WITH WHAT WE ARE POSTING BECAUSE THE PUBLIC “SEES” US THROUGH THESE POSTS THAT WE WRITE THERE.

3) *He is the one who does good & looks for the interest others!*

“...Who does his neighbor no wrong & cast no slur on his fellowman.” (v. 3)

NOTICE THAT DAVID IS TOUCHING ALL AREAS OF OUR LIFE BEGINNING FROM THE HEART OR CHARACTER. THEN HE MOVE TO OUR SPEECH AND NOW HERE IN OUR DEEDS OR BEHAVIOR OR ACTION.

WE ARE NOT JUST TO THINK OF OURSELVES – OUR NEEDS, OUR RIGHTS, OUR GOOD, BUT WE ARE TO THINK ALSO OF THE GOOD & INTEREST OF OTHERS. THE APOSTLE PAUL AGREES.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus...” (Phil. 2: 3-5)

I THINK THIS CHARACTER QUALITY IS ONE OF THOSE QUALITIES THAT ARE BEING TESTED IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS

NOWADAYS IN THIS PANDEMIC. BECAUSE THE TENDENCY OF PEOPLE INCLUDING BELIEVERS IS TO BE SELFISH OR SELF-CENTERED. WE LOOK ONLY FOR OUR OWN INTEREST SO WE TAKE ALL THE TISSUES WE COULD GET OR THE DISINFECTANTS THAT WE COULD GET WITHOUT EVER THINKING THAT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WILL NEED IT TOO.

WE ALSO BRING THIS TO CHURCH BY IMPOSING WHAT WE BELIEVE IS RIGHT IN OUR EYES NOT REALIZING THAT BELIEVERS DOES NOT ALWAYS AGREE ON GRAY AREAS LIKE WEARING A MASK. IT NOT CLEAR IN THE BIBLE. SO, WE WILL HAVE DIFFERENT OPINION ABOUT IT DEPENDING ON YOUR OWN INFLUENCES.

BUT THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES TO BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS - TO BE HUMBLE & THINK ALSO OF THE INTEREST & WELFARE OF OTHER PEOPLE!

4) *He is one who hates sin & fears the Lord!*

“...Who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord...” (v. 4)

NOW, DAVID MOVES TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SIN OR WICKEDNESS & THE LORD! HE SAYS THAT A PERSON WHO IS PLEASING & HONORING BEFORE THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO HATES SIN & FEARS THE LORD! A VILE PERSON IS ONE WHO IS MORALLY CORRUPT OR EVIL. THE EMPHASIS HERE IS THE WICKEDNESS OF THE PERSON & NOT THE PERSON. AND WE KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE BECAUSE SOMEWHERE IN THE BIBLE, WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE EVEN OUR ENEMIES, THOSE PEOPLE THAT DO US WRONG OR HURT US.

5) *He is the one who keeps his oath or pledge faithfully!*

“...Who keeps his oath even when it hurts ...” (v. 4)

HERE, IN THIS NEXT CHARACTER QUALITY, DAVID TURNS TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLEDGES OR PROMISES WE MAKE TO OTHERS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. AS COMMANDED IN THE

OLD TESTAMENT, A JEW IS TO FULFILL HIS WORD HE GIVES TO ANOTHER.

Moses told the leaders of the Israelite tribes, “This is what the Lord has commanded: When a man makes a vow to the Lord or swears an oath to put himself under an obligation, he must not break his word; he must do whatever he has promised.” (Num. 30: 1-2)

JAMES TEACHES US THE SAME PRINCIPLE IN HIS LETTER—
“Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no,’ so that you won’t fall under judgment.”
(James 5: 12)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, ARE YOU FAITHFULLY KEEPING YOUR PROMISE TO THE LORD? HAVE YOU BEEN FAITHFUL IN YOUR PROMISE & COMMITMENT TO THE LORD? PERHAPS, YOU HAVE PROMISED THE LORD TO BE REGULAR & FAITH IN YOUR GIVING AT THE START OF THE YEAR BEFORE THE COVID? HOW ABOUT NOW? ARE WE DELIVERING OUR PROMISE TO THE LORD? ARE WE BEING FAITHFUL TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WE HAVE COMMITTED TO THE LORD TO DO & FULFILL?

6) He is the one who gives generously & is not greedy!

“...Who lends his money without usury & does not accept a bribe against the innocent...” (v. 5)

THE NEXT QUALITY THAT DAVID TOUCHED IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR POSSESSIONS & BLESSINGS! HE SHOWS US THAT THE LORD IS PLEASED WITH THE PERSON WHO IS GENEROUS WITH HIS POSSESSIONS!

DAVID REMINDS HIS READERS OF THE WILL OF THE LORD AS FAR AS THEIR POSSESSIONS ARE CONCERNS.

“Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Prov. 3: 5-10)

ARE WE STILL TRUSTING THE LORD NOWADAYS? OR ARE WE WAVERING IN OUR TRUST & CONFIDENCE IN HIM? ARE WE FAITHFULLY DISPENSING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS CHILDREN & PEOPLE OF THE LORD? ARE WE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY OVER OUR LIFE & IS NOT ALLOWING THIS PANDEMIC OR OUR OWN EMOTION OR WHAT PEOPLE SAY TO AFFECT HOW WE LIVE OUR LIFE? OR HAVE WE BEEN SWEEPED AWAY & SUCK INTO BY THE CURRENT OF NEGATIVITY & DISCONTENT THAT MANY PEOPLE TODAY ARE NOW DEMONSTRATING?

AGAIN, THE APOSTLE PAUL WARNS US THESE LATER TIMES.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”
(1 Tim. 6: 5-10)

I THINK THAT MANY OF OUR GRIEFS & PAINS TODAY ARE RESULT OF THIS DISCONTENTMENT IN THE LORD & PURSUIT OF A MATERIALISTIC LIFESTYLE. MAY THE LORD OPEN OUR EYES TO THE EMPTINESS OF THE LIFE MANY OF US ARE PURSUING!

CHURCH/FRIENDS, YOU CANNOT BE A DISCONTENTED & GREEDY PERSON & BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD!

B. WHY LIVE AN **ACCEPTABLE LIFE** BEFORE THE LORD!

DAVID ALSO IN THIS PSALM, IN VERSE 6, GIVES US THE REASON WHY WE ARE TO PURSUE THIS KIND OF LIFE BEFORE THE LORD -- **THE ONE WHO LIVES THIS KIND OF LIFESTYLE IS UNSHAKABLE!**

“He who does these things will never be shaken.” (v. 6)

THIS KIND OF LIFE IS THE LIFE THAT WE SHOULD BE PURSUING BECAUSE WE KNOW THROUGH SCRIPTURES & EXPERIENCE TEACH US THAT OUR LIFE IN THIS EARTH WILL SHAKEN BY VARIOUS CALAMITIES & TROUBLES.

1) *Our life in this world will be shaken by various kinds of calamities & troubles!*

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” (Jas. 1: 2-3)

ONE IS NATURAL CALAMITIES LIKE STORMS OR EARTHQUAKES OR HURRICANE. IT CAN ALSO BE SHAKEN BY MAN-MADE CALAMITIES LIKE WARS, LARGE SCALE ACCIDENTS LIKE WHAT WE JUST HAVE IN BEIRUT. HYBRID CALAMITIES LIKE THE COVID VIRUS, SARS, HIV VIRUS, ETC. ANOTHER THING THAT CAN SHAKE US IS PERSONAL CRISIS LIKE ILLNESS, DEATH OF A LOVED ONE OR LOSS OF BUSINESS OR JOB, ETC.

2) *There is a time of great & terrible shaking that will take place on this earth!*

“I will punish the world for its evil, and wicked people for their iniquities. I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant and humiliate the insolence of tyrants... Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will shake from its foundations at the wrath of the Lord of Armies, on the day of his burning anger.” (Isaiah 13: 11-13)

THE LORD JESUS AFFIRMS THESE PROPHECIES IN HIS TEACHING IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW.

“Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth will mourn...” (Matt. 24: 29-31)

THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD, SPEAKS OF A TIME THAT ALL THINGS WILL BE SHAKEN & ALL MEN HUMBLLED. MAY WE BE READY WHEN THIS TERRIBLE DAY COME & BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL NEVER BE SHAKEN BECAUSE WE HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE LIFE BEFORE THE LORD! AND THIS LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT...

C. HOW CAN WE HAVE THIS ACCEPTABLE LIFE & LIVE AN UNSHAKABLE LIFE BEFORE GOD!

AS I HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT EARLIER, VERSE 2 GIVES US THE MAIN PREREQUISITE OF THE PERSON WHO CAN DWELL IN THE HOUSE & PRESENCE OF THE LORD OR HOW TO HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE LIFE BEFORE THE LORD -- IT IS A BLAMELESS, RIGHTEOUS LIFE!

(1) NOW, THERE IS A BAD NEWS & GOOD NEWS HERE. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT ACCORDING TO APOSTLE PAUL THERE IS NO ONE WHO IS BLAMELESS OR RIGHTEOUS BEFORE THE LORD!

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Rom. 3: 10-12)

"There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (v. 23)

(2) THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT DAVID HIMSELF PREDICTED THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH WHO WILL LIVE A BLAMELESS & RIGHTEOUS LIFE & SHALL IMPUTE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO ALL WHO WILL TRUST IN HIM AS SAVIOR & LORD. WE SEE THIS DAVID'S PSALM 2!

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the

ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” (Psalm 2:4-6)

PAUL CONFIRMS THIS TRUTH –

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’” (Gal. 4: 4-6)

TAKE NOTE THAT ACCORDING THE WRITER OF HEBREWS, THE MESSIAH OR THE SON OF GOD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST’S KINGDOM WILL BE AN UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM.

“See to it that you do not reject the one who speaks... His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ This expression, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what is not shaken might remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12: 25-27)

THE WRITER OF HEBREWS HERE IS WARNING/ADMONISHING US THE READERS OF THIS LETTER TO TAKE HEED & LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE SON OF GOD OR THE LORD JESUS (SEE HEB. 1:1) HE IS REMINDING THE CHURCH THAT –

(1) THERE WILL BE A TERRIBLE SHAKING THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LAST DAYS! – WHICH WE HVE JUST DISCUSS EARLIER!

(2) THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THIS TERRIFYING DAY OF GOD’S WRATH IS TO BE PART OF CHRIST’S KINGDOM WHICH ALONE CANNOT BE SHAKEN!

THEREFORE, HOW DO WE BECOME PART OF THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS & HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE LIFE & UNSHAKABLE LIFE?

1) WE HAVE TO **ACKNOWLEDGE** THAT WE ARE **SINNERS** & RECOGNIZE OUR NEED A **SIN OFFERING!** AN OFFERING WILL **REMOVE** OUR SINS & GUILT, REMOVE **GOD'S WRATH** FROM US, & MAKE US **BLAMELESS & RIGHTEOUS** BEFORE GOD!

AND DAVID UNDERSTOOD THIS CONCEPT. THE REASON HE WAS ABLE TO STAND IN GOD'S PRESENCE WAS BECAUSE OF ANNUAL ATONEMENT/SIN OFFERING DONE BY THE HIGH PRIEST FOR THE NATION ISRAEL & THE DAILY OFFERINGS BY THE PRIESTS FOR THE PEOPLE & THE INDIVIDUAL OFFERINGS EACH MAKE EVERY TIME THEY COME TO THE TEMPLE. THESE OFFERINGS MAKE THEM BLAMELESS & RIGHTEOUS. AND THESE OFFERING/ANIMALS WERE "BLAMELESS" OR "WITHOUT DEFECT"!

BUT PRAISE THE LORD BECAUSE DAVID SAW IN HIS SPIRIT THAT WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES, HE WILL MAKE A ONE TIME & FOR ALL ATONEMENT FOR THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE. THIS CHRIST WILL BE "BLAMELESS", "WITHOUT DEFECT" THE GREATER GOOD NEWS IS THAT HE WILL NOT REMOVE & CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS BUT HE WILL ALSO BECOME OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS! THE FATHER WILL IMPUTE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO US!

*"God made him who had no sin to be **sin ("sin offering")** for us, so that in him we might become the **righteousness** of God." (2 Cor. 5: 21, CSB)*

*"For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. **Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness [righteousness] into us!**" (2 Cor. 5: 21, Living Translation)*

2) WE HAVE TO **BELIEVE & TRUST** JESUS CHRIST AS THE MESSIAH, OUR **ATONEMENT**, OUR **SIN OFFERING/BEARER!** THE ONE THE FATHER SENT TO **DIE & PAY** THE PENALTY OF OUR SINS & THE ONE WHO WILL **IMPUTE** GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS TO US!

PAUL MAKES IT ALL CLEAR HERE IN HIS WORDS TO THE ROMANS.

But now God has shown us a different way to heaven—not by

“being good enough” and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way (though not new, really, for the Scriptures told about it long ago). Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us “not guilty”—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like. Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious ideal; yet now God declares us “not guilty” of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.

(Rom. 3: 21-24, Living Translation)

CHALLENGE/CLOSING REMARKS:

CHURCH/FRIENDS, PERHAPS, WE HAVE BEEN THINKING ALL THIS TIME THAT WE WILL MAKE IT TO GOD & HEAVEN BY OUR OWN EFFORTS & GOOD WORKS. PERHAPS, WE HAVE BEEN TELLING OURSELVES “I THINK I AM GOOD” “ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO OTHERS, I AM A GOOD PERSON!” THEN, IF YOU ARE A TRULY GOOD PERSON THEN YOU DON’T NEED A SAVIOR. YOU DON’T NEED JESUS BECAUSE HE CAME TO SAVE SINNERS & DIED ON THE CROSS FOR THEM! MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON YOU & OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE THE DELUSION & DECEITFULNESS OF YOUR HEART & THE SPIRIT SHOW YOU YOUR SINS!

BUT FOR THOSE WHO DESIRES TO LIVE AN ACCEPTABLE LIFE BEFORE THE LORD & AND A LIFE THAT IS UNSHAKABLE, THEN YOU NEED THE LORD JESUS’ RIGHTEOUSNESS & WE CAN ONLY HAVE IT BY DOING WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU TO DO - ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SINFULNESS & NEED OF A SAVIOR & BELIEVE & TRUST JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR, OUR ATONEMENT/SIN OFFERING & BY FAITH RECEIVE NOT ONLY HIS PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS, ETERNAL LIFE, & THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO WILL ALSO GIVE YOU CHRIST’S RIGHTEOUSNESS!