

**Bible Study**  
**Celebrating an Ending for a New Beginning**  
**Lesson 2**

**THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

**II Corinthians 5:17-21**

At the recent Youth Convention in Pittsburgh, one of the ministers spoke about “The Hope of Heaven.” The theme of the convention was “Family Reunion.” It was refreshing to hear a young preacher talk about the importance of heaven and the family reunion that will take place there. The gateway to comprehending heaven is to understand “The Righteousness of God.” In other words if we don’t get right with God then we can miss heaven.

The foundation of the Christian faith is that our lives can be changed/transformed so that we can walk in the righteousness of God. This means that we must abandon our old way of selfish living so that we can live with the grace and compassion of Christ. We can accomplish this goal by realizing our forgiveness from the Omni God, forgiving ourselves and forgiving others. The Christian’s chief goal should be to live a life that is pleasing to Christ.

Let me share with you three reasons why we should live in “The Righteousness of God.”

- I. Be Authentic with Yourself. (vs. 17)
  - A. Remove the old self
  - B. Receive the new self
- II. Be an Advocate for Others. (vs. 18-19)
  - A. Reconciling ourselves to our Creator
  - B. Reconciling others to Christ
- III. Be an Ambassador for Christ. (vs. 20-21)
  - A. Represent Christ with gracious thinking
  - B. Represent Christ with godly living