

## INTRODUCTION

1. 2C5:21 - crucially important verse - today: *the righteousness of God*.

**1st: Martin Luther's Discovery**

1. R1:16-17 was interpreted as God's judgment on sinners. Vulgate - justifi-care: "justus" = justice + "ficare" = to make. RCC makes men righteous, justified
2. Luther studied Greek term: not making, but a declaration by a court
3. *revealed to faith* - passively trusting God to give "alien" righteousness.
4. "When I discovered that, I felt that I was born again of the Holy Ghost & the doors of paradise swung open & I walked thru."
5. How does this righteousness relate to faith - *from faith to faith*. Hab 2:4

**2nd: The Bible's References to *The Righteousness of God***

1. Rm 3:21-22 *manifested* [historical event] - to wh/ OT *testified* & is now revealed in gospel. *Righteousness of God* defines believers in Christ
2. Rm 10:1-4 rejection due to misdirected zeal, faith in *their own righteousness*, culpable ignorance & rebellion. Jesus is the living embodiment of the righteousness of God.
3. Jms 1:19-20 the Christian is to be a display of *the righteousness of God*: sanctification - a life of faith. Hb 10:37-38 [Hab 2:4]. Paul: The righteous by faith will live. Heb: The righteous will live by faith.
4. It is said that Luther turned RCC on it's head: RCC - believe in order to work in order to become justified. Luther: believe in order to be justified & then work in order to demonstrate life, faith, love.
5. Appreciate something of the spectrum of meaning in the phrase *the righteousness of God*.
6. Let us minister this message & deed & word. Our sufficiency is not in ourselves but in the Spirit who empowers God's word[s]. 2C 5:21