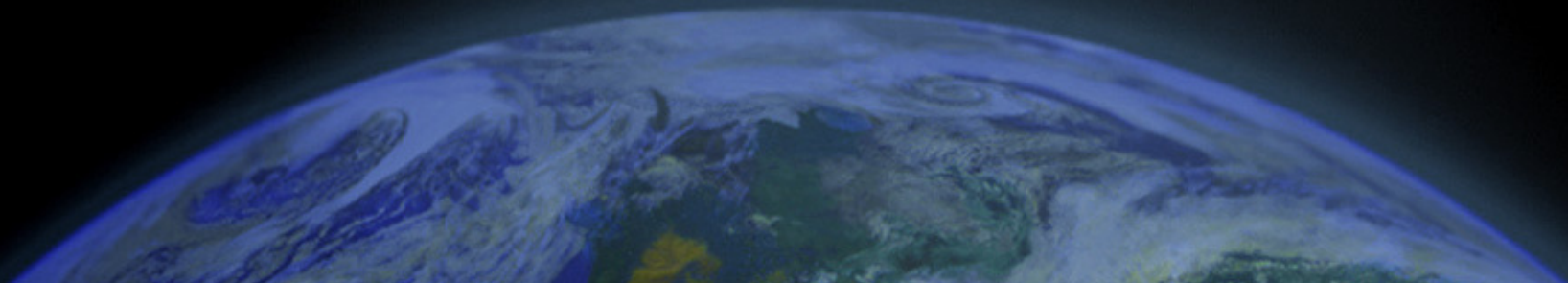


The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

Who Wants to Be Wrong?

**Everyone wants to be right
and already thinks he is right.**



Romans 4:1-6

Paul's letter to the Roman Christians is a masterpiece document that shows us God's way of attaining righteousness.



What Was Abraham's Goal?

Verse 1 says, “What then shall we say was gained by Abraham.”



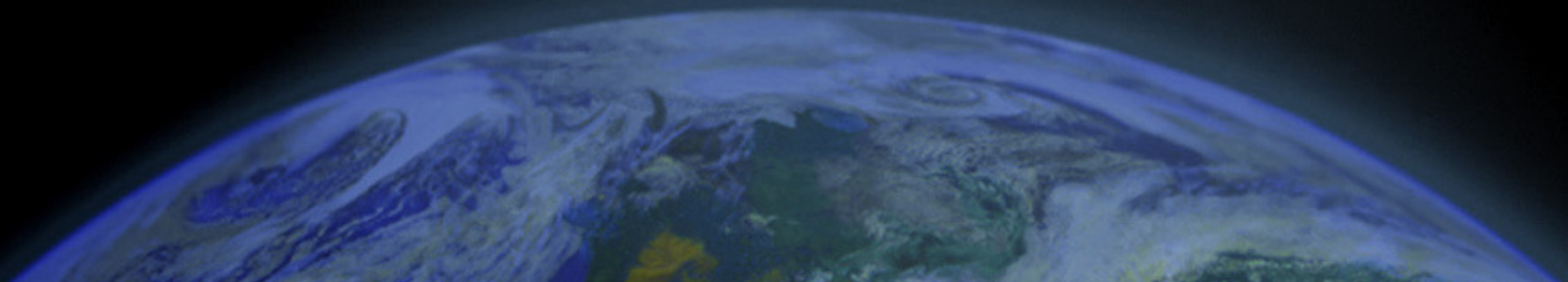
The “Rightness” Required By God Himself

Romans 3:21 But now the **righteousness**
of God has been manifested apart from the
law



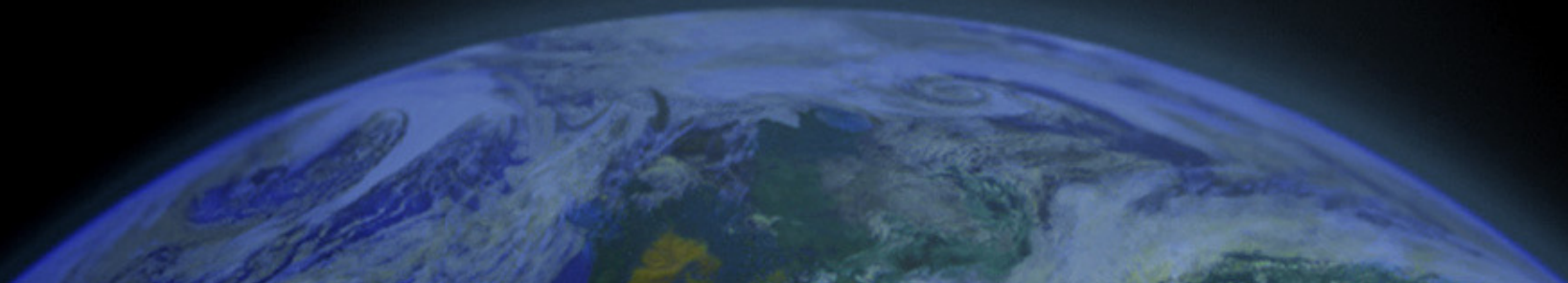
The One and Only Standard Is the Goal

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the **standard of teaching** to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness.**



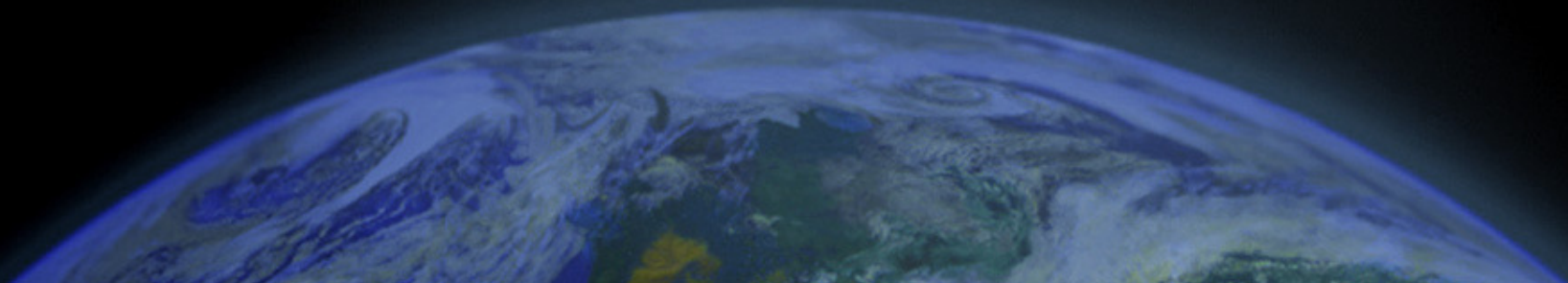
The Goal of Righteousness Attained

Romans 9:30-32 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have **attained** it, that is, a **righteousness** that is by faith; ³¹but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness **did not succeed in reaching that law.** ³²**Why?** Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works.



How Can We Attain the Goal?

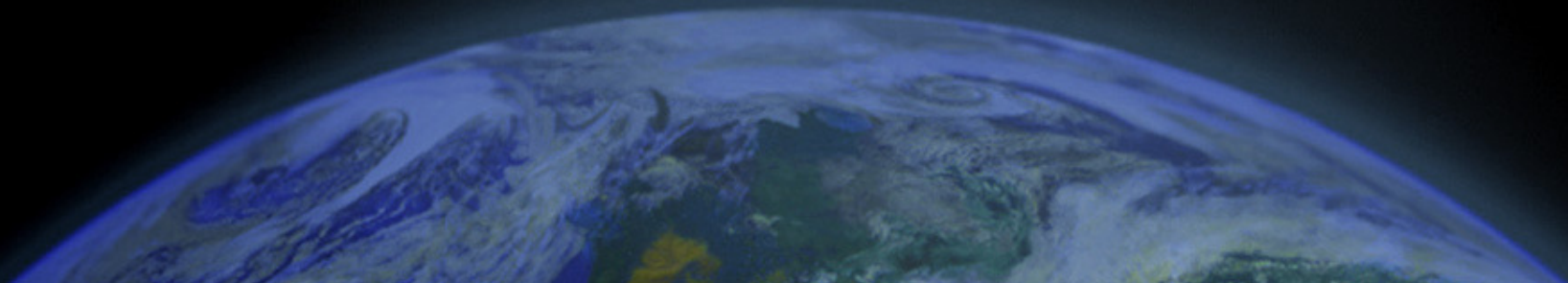
**Two Methods Are Used:
One is wrong and one is right.**



The Wrong Way

1. Self-Justification

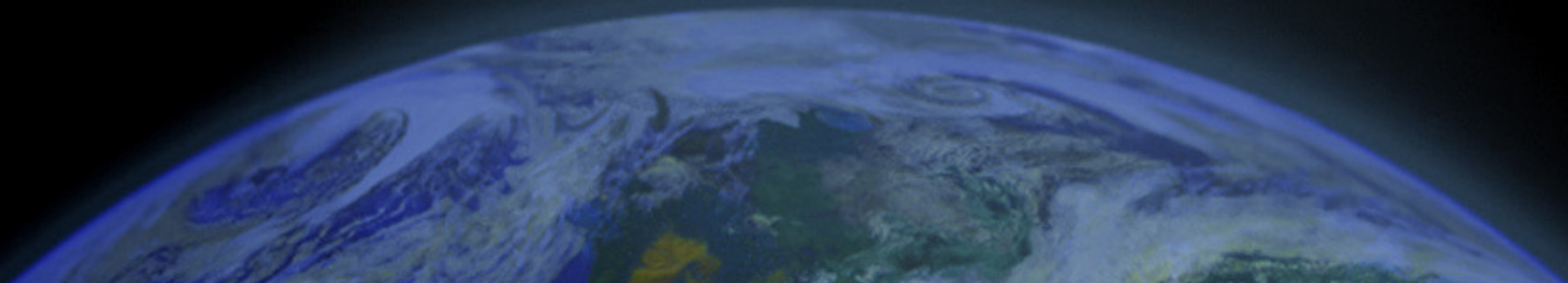
Two different intellectually dishonest methods.



- A. By the Works of the Law**
- B. By Abolishing the Law**

Matthew 5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets

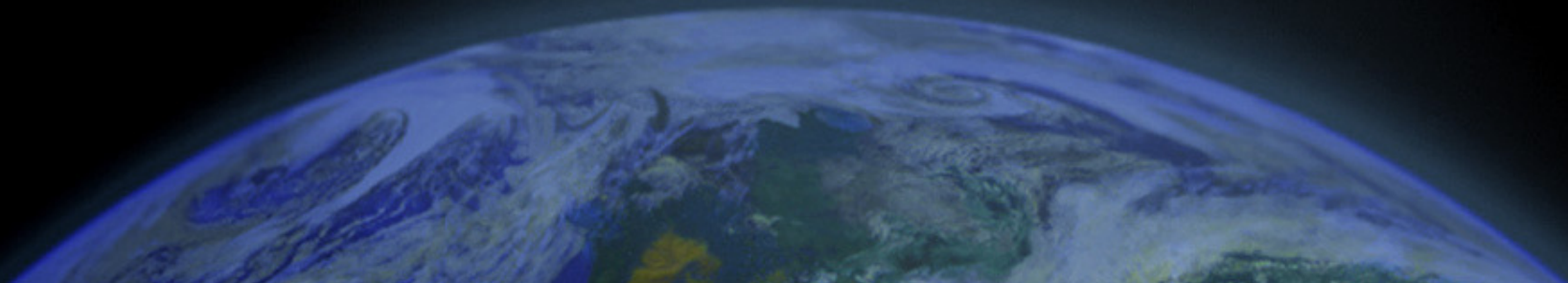
1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?



The Right Way to Attain Righteousness

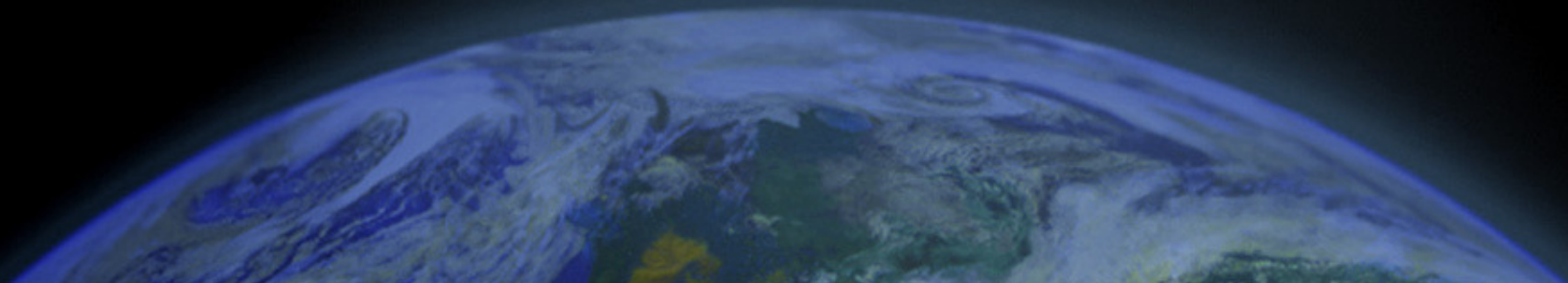
2. By Faith in God's Righteousness

The righteous standard of God is attained by faith. Our text asks, “What was **gained by Abraham?**”



The Result of Attaining Righteousness

- 1. “We are heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17).**
- 2. Provided We Suffer with Him (Romans 8:17).**
- 3. We Delight in the Law of God. “I delight in the law of God in my inner being” (Romans 7:22).**
- 4. We are Now Slaves of Righteousness.**
“...having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness” (Romans 6:18).



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