

3. The third key word in this theme is the term “ **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD**”. What does this term mean?

Is this God’s attribute of righteousness, the characteristic or quality or perfection of His nature which speaks of His justice or uprightness of character and actions?

Or is this God’s standard of righteousness, His law, which defines righteousness and unrighteousness, for human beings, and reflects His attribute of righteousness?

Are there yet other meanings of the term, “the righteousness of God” which Paul is going to use and develop?

4. The fourth key word in this theme is the word “**FAITH**”. What is faith?

Verse 16 says that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that **BELIEVES**.

Verse 17 says that the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from **FAITH** to **FAITH**.

One who **BELIEVES** is one who **EXERCISES FAITH**. Is this **FAITH** simply “trust in God as He is revealed in His Word?” Or is it something more?

In the context **FAITH** is connected with salvation; and thus this **FAITH** would seem to mean “trust in Christ and His redemptive work as revealed in the Gospel.”

The phrase “from or by” faith to faith is difficult, but the quotation from Habakkuk 2:4- “The righteous shall live by faith”- may help us. In Habakkuk 2:4 the unrighteous man lives by self-sufficient pride; whereas the righteous man lives by faith. The righteous man lives by faith. The righteous man lives a life of righteousness by faith. He begins this life by faith and he continues to live this life by faith. Perhaps the NIV translation captures this idea when it translates Romans 1:17 “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed a righteousness that is by faith from first to last....”

Or perhaps “by faith” emphasizes the **METHOD** by which God’s righteousness is revealed, and “to faith” emphasizes the **RECIPIENTS** to whom God’s righteousness is revealed, i.e. (those who believe.