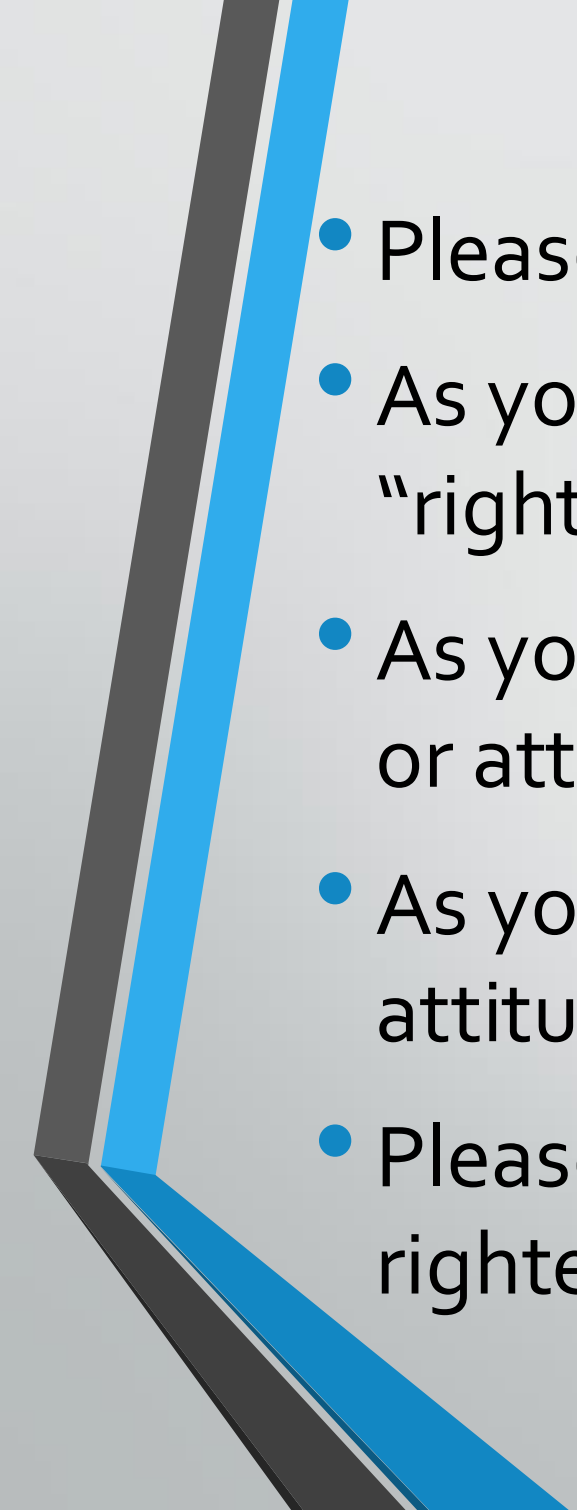
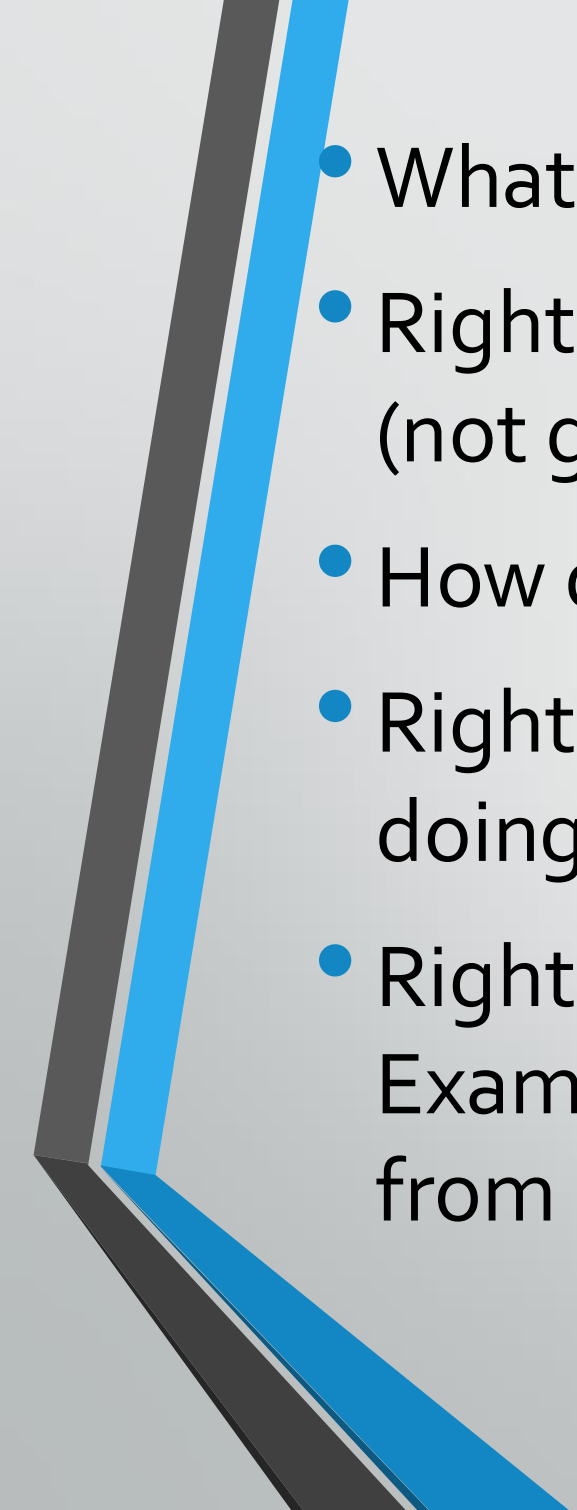




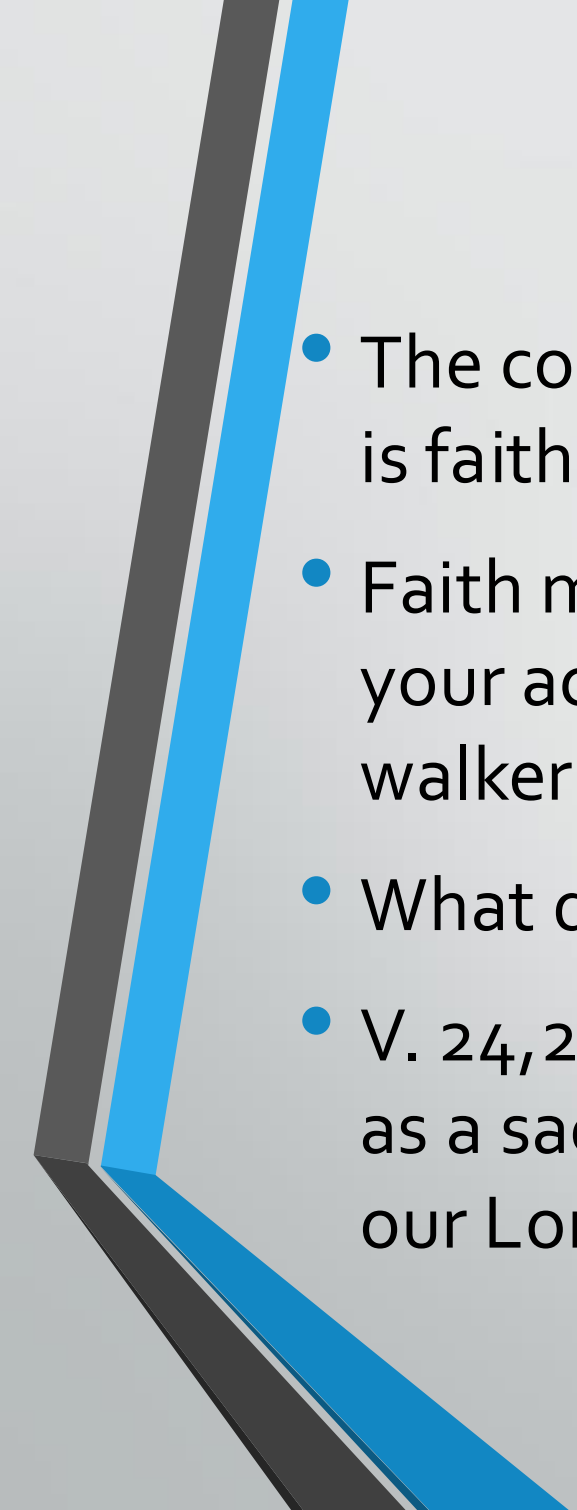
ROMANS 3:21-31

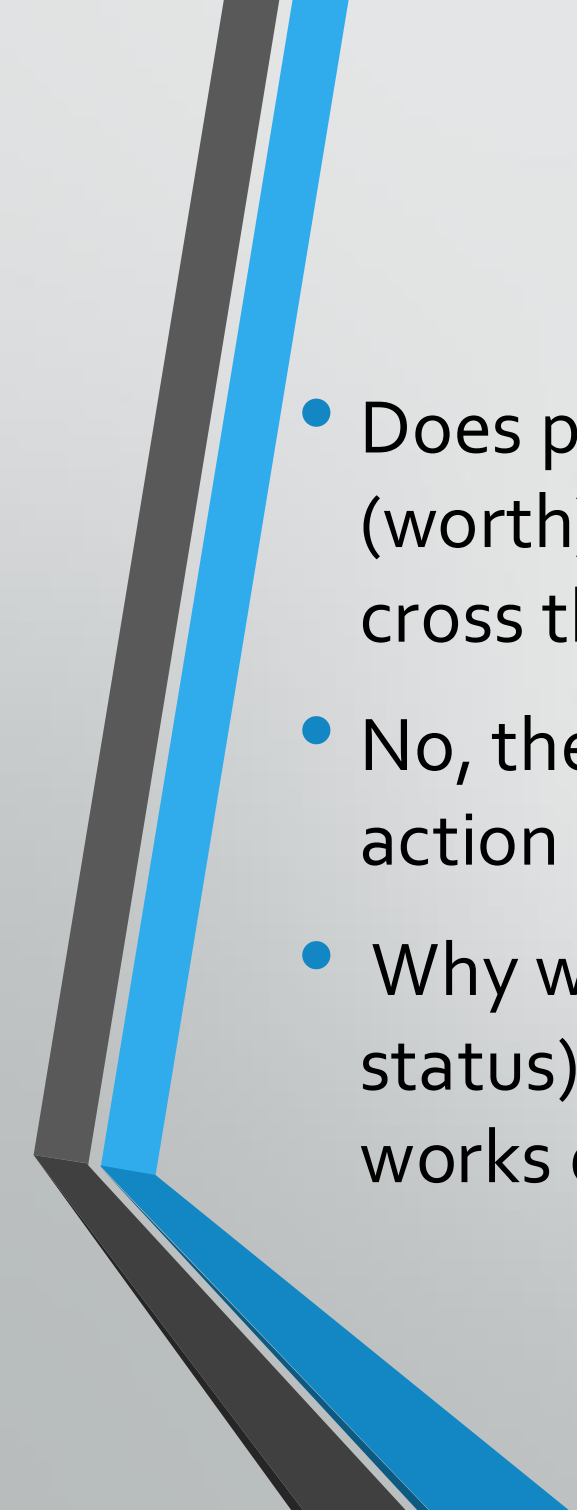
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- Please read Romans 3:21-31 silently, meditatively
 - As you read verse 21-23, please think about what does the “righteousness of God” means?
 - As you read verse 24-26, please think about how do we get or attain “the righteousness of God”?
 - As you read verse 27-31, please think about what should our attitude be after acquiring the righteousness of God?
 - Please think about the consequences of having the righteousness of God

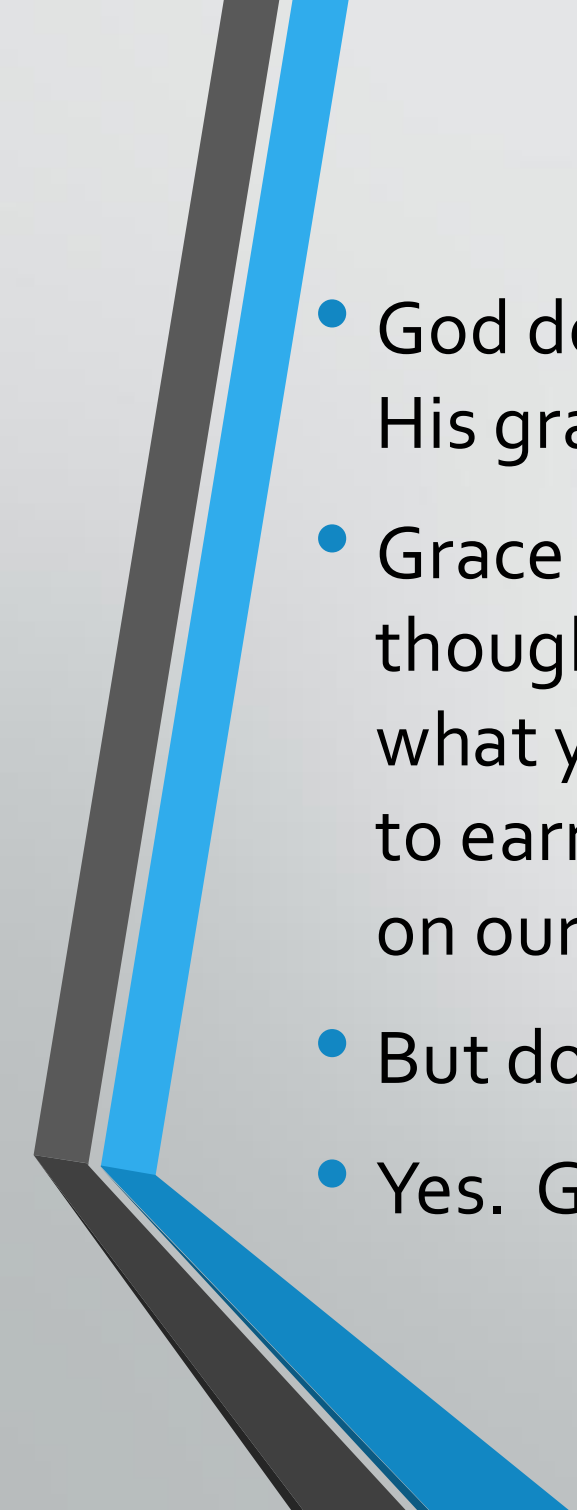
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- What does righteousness means?
 - Righteousness means the status or position of being right (not guilty, have not committed any wrong doing, innocent).
 - How do you attain righteousness?
 - Righteousness can be attained through actions, such as not doing anything wrong.
 - Righteousness can also be attained through judgment.
Example: a judge/court proclaims a person is righteous from certain accusations/ wrong actions.

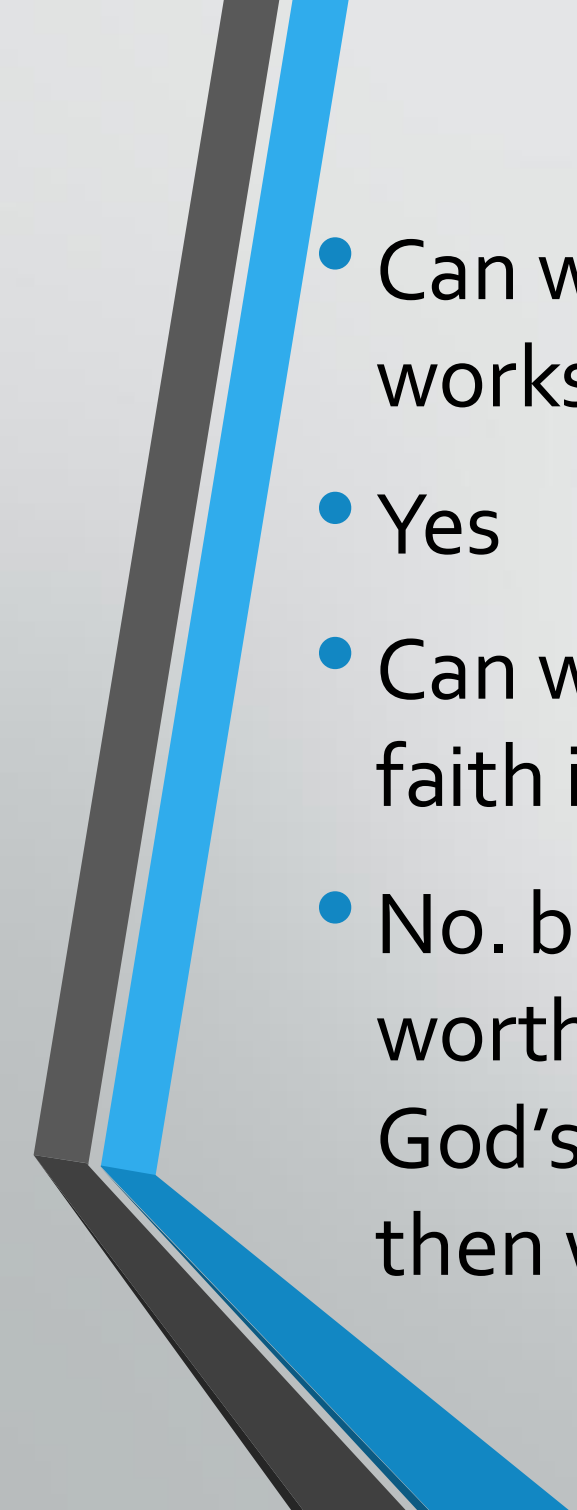
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- What does righteousness of God means?
 - Righteousness of God can means the status of righteousness attain from actions and behavior that are according to God's word/law (without sin)
 - Righteousness of God can also means the status of righteousness attain from God's judgment. That is, the person is righteous before God by God's own declaration. Zechariah 3:1-5.

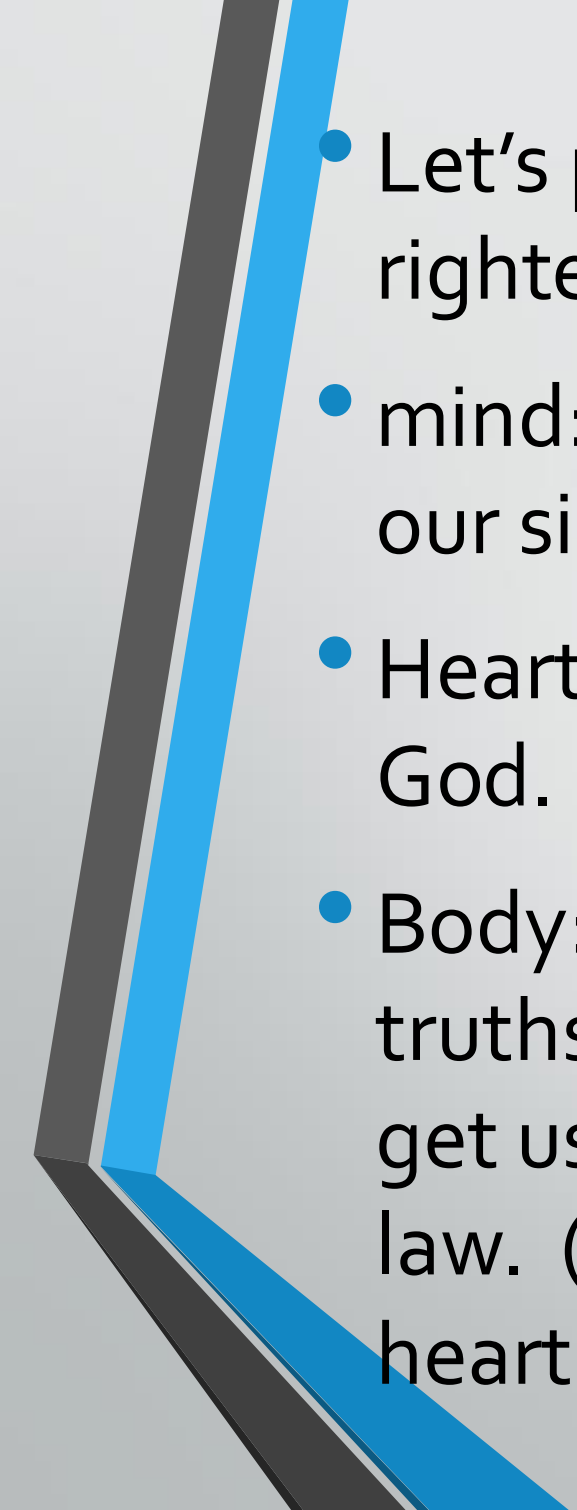
- Can you attain the righteousness of God through obedience to God's laws 100% (by our own actions)?
- No, v. 23 says it's impossible. What is the glory of God?
- What does the righteousness of God apart from (without) the law means as stated in v. 21?
- The righteousness of God apart from the law means God grants us righteousness (position or status) when we put our faith in Jesus Christ (v.22), not through obedience to the law.
- Trivia question: What law or prophets that witness this (What OT bible verse that says this)?
- Genesis 15:6

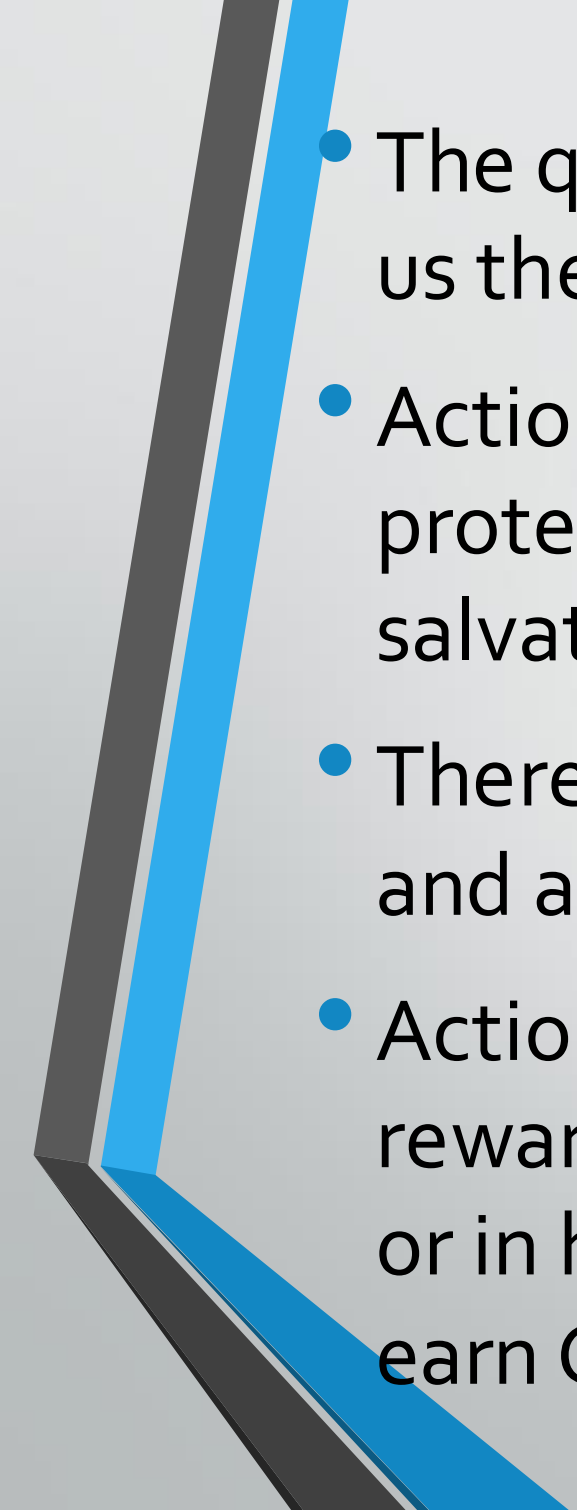
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- The condition of attaining the righteousness of God without the law is faith in Jesus, What does faith means?
 - Faith means belief in action. That is, belief that results or reflects in your actions or beliefs that are accompanied by actions. i.e. rope walker with a barrel.
 - What does faith in Jesus Christ means?
 - V. 24,25. Faith in Jesus Christ means believe Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice of atonement for our sins and the action is making Jesus our Lord (v. 29,30).

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- Does putting our faith in Jesus is an action that has the same value (worth) as the works of Christ (can we earn the work of Christ on the cross through putting our faith in Jesus)?
 - No, therefore, we cannot claim righteousness of God through our action of putting our faith in Jesus.
 - Why would God grants us righteousness (become righteous through status) when we do something as easy as putting faith in Jesus (our works does not worth what Jesus has done)?

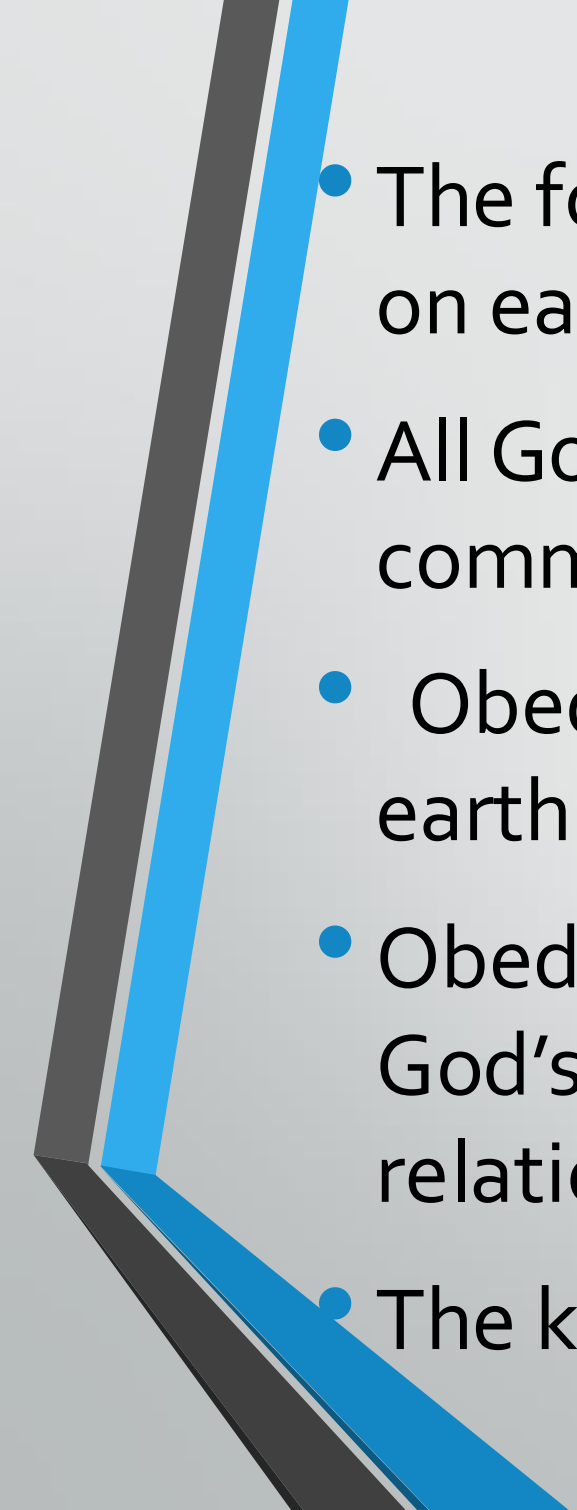
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- God does this due to His love (God loves us) and grace (God gives us His grace (v. 24). What is grace?
 - Grace is unearned favor. That is, you receive something of value even though your actions does not provide equal value (you don't earn what you get). i.e. you receive \$20,000 car but you have not worked to earn or deserve \$20,000. So, we receive righteousness not based on our earned actions but based on God's grace
 - But does God's grace comes with a price?
 - Yes. God's grace it's not free to God as Jesus has to die on the cross.

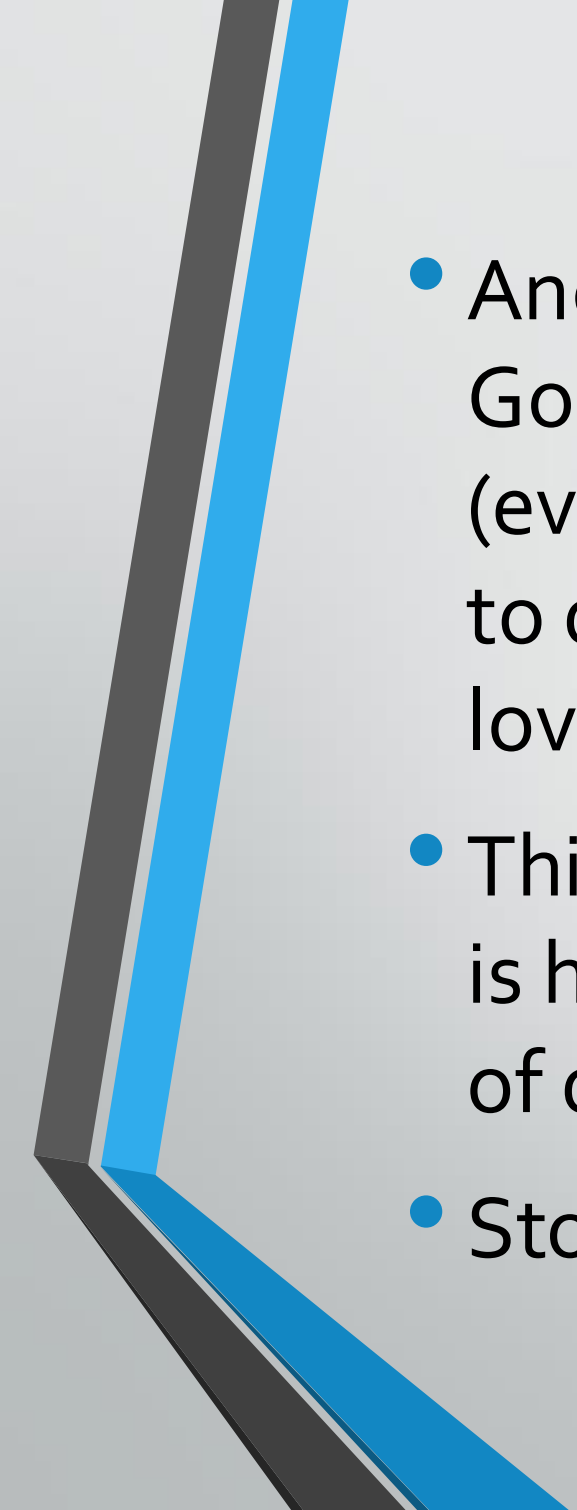
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- Can we boast if we attain the righteousness of God by our works of obedience to God's law?
 - Yes
 - Can we boast if we attain the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus?
 - No. because our action of putting faith in Jesus does not worth the justification we receive from God. Hence we need God's grace. V.24. Since we receive justification by grace, then we cannot boast of our actions.

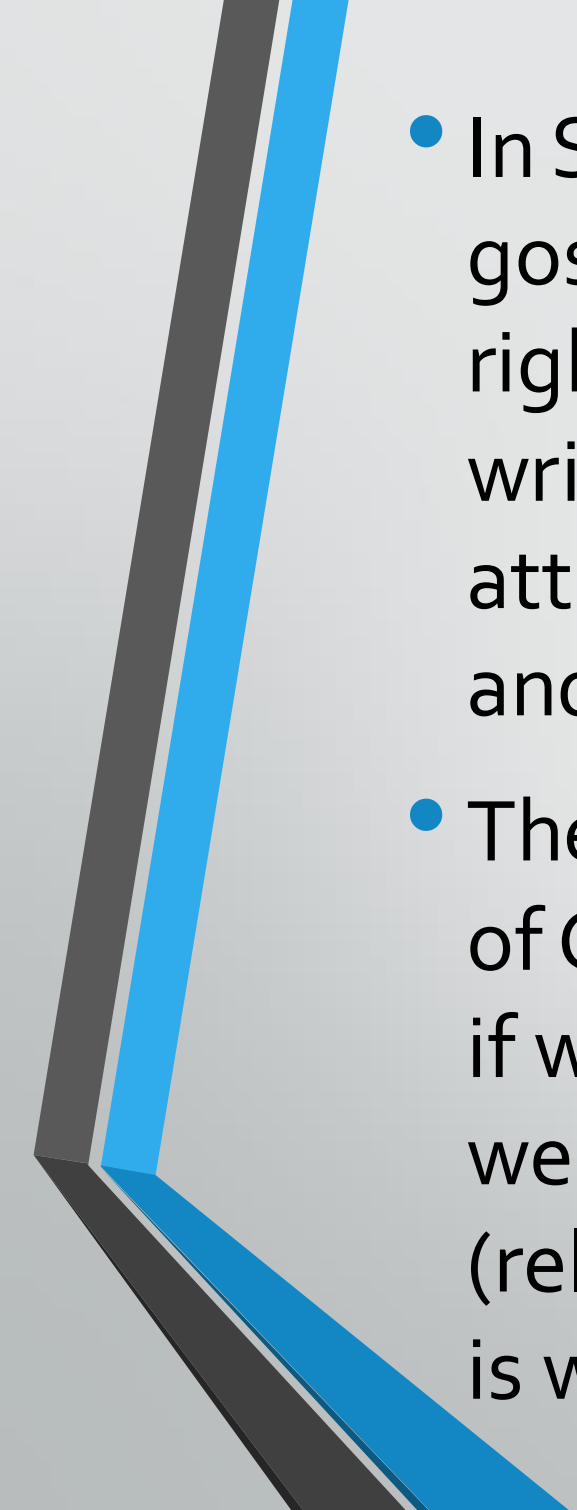
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- Let's put all this together (explain in another way). The righteousness of God can be attained through:
 - mind: Understand biblical truth (Jesus died on the cross for our sins). It's important to study the bible
 - Heart: believe in the biblical truths and depend or trust in God.
 - Body: actions that reflect our understanding of Biblical truths. But understand that it is our mind and heart that will get us the righteousness of God, not our obedience to the law. (Romans 10:9,10). Our actions are consequence of heart (faith)

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- The question is does our actions matter since it doesn't give us the righteousness of God ?
 - Actions matter because it provides God's blessings and protection while on earth, even though it doesn't provide salvation (going to heaven).
 - There are two types of actions/work: Actions based on merit and actions based on relationship
 - Actions that are based on merit (actions that demands reward). This action will not give us God's blessings on earth or in heaven because all our actions are not good enough to earn God's blessings. Isaiah 64:6. Matthew 7:22,23

- Another type of actions is actions that are based on relationship. This action will give us God's blessings on earth.
- What does actions based on relationship means?
- When we obey God (help a person who is hungry) because we love that person, this is actions based on relationship. This actions will give us God's blessings on earth.
- It's relationship that will give us God's blessing of going to heaven (Matthew 7:22,23, mind and heart)
- It's also relationship that will give us God's blessing on earth. What bible verse that proves this?

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- The following is the biblical proof of getting God's blessing on earth through relationship:
 - All God's laws are based on the two greatest commandments, which is love (Matthew 22:36-40)
 - Obedience to God's laws will produce God's blessings on earth (OT verses, deuteronomy 11,28)
 - Obedience to God's laws that are based on love will produce God's blessings on earth. Hence, without love or relationship, our obedience or actions are useless.
 - The key to relationship is love

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- Another point about faith is it's related to dependency on God. Since we cannot fully obey God's law by our own effort (even when we are doing it out of love), therefore we need to depend on God in our effort to obey God's laws based on love.
 - This means, when we obey God's law (helping a person who is hungry) we should do it out of love (relationship), and out of dependency on God
 - Story of George Mueller, Hudson Taylor.

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- In Summary: The theme of Romans (Romans 1:17: For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “the righteous will live by faith”) means we can only attain the righteousness of God by putting our faith in Jesus and His works, not through our own effort.
 - Therefore we cannot boast about having the righteousness of God. The righteousness of God will get us to heaven, but if we want to receive God’s blessings and protection while we are on earth, we need to obey God’s law by love (relationship), not by earning it through our obedience. This is what live by faith means.