

LENT DEVOTION

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

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Two things happens in a believer's life because of this gift of righteousness. Its effect is both eternal and temporal (here and now). It gives you the power to "reign" to bring eternal life through the one who lives in you (Jesus Christ). You are being helped and prepared for the "life to come."

(1) God reigns in a believer: "Just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:21).

It also gives you the "power" to 'reign' in your personal life and of course, it is not your own self-help but through Jesus Christ. You are able to become what God wants you to become because of the 'righteousness of God' in you. There is always a hope for the 'better' and a believer need not stay and be caught up in the same old ruts, hurts, and bad habits of everyday living.

(2) A Believer is given the power to reign in life: "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who received God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17).

The above two things are just like the coin that has two sides. Every human being must be concerned about both the life "that is to come" and the one "here and now." In fact, God is also concerned about both the aspects of a human life and that is the reason why God took the initiative to 'impute His righteousness' in our lives. You have the freedom to live and to make the right choices in life when you know that you have a 'right standing with God.'