

JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS*

Jesus' baptism, temptation, and righteous life prove He has fulfilled all righteousness as our Substitute.

SCRIPTURE†

Matthew 3:13–17

Matthew 4:1–11

Mark 1:9–11

Mark 1:12

Luke 3:21–22

Luke 4:1–13

John 1:29–34

Hebrews 4:14–16

1 John 2:1

MUSIC‡

All I Need

Before the Throne of God Above

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Complete in Thee

His Robes for Mine

I Run to Christ

In Christ Alone

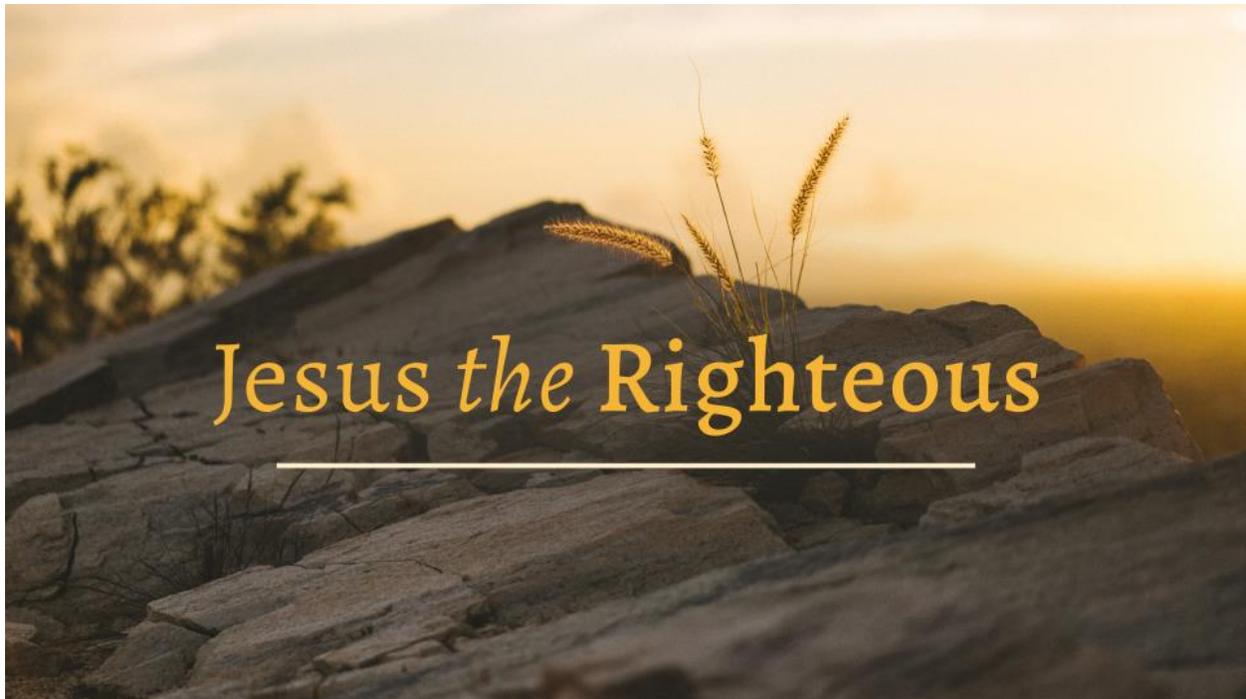
Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

On Christ I Stand (Harlan) SATB

Rock of Ages

See the Christ



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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* Theme fits in **Ministry of Christ** series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

The temptation of Christ was necessary to show us Christ's sinlessness. It wasn't necessary for him, but as a proof for us. It was a test not to tempt Him to sin, but to prove to us His righteousness. Jesus was righteous by birth and active choice. We are sinners by birth and choice. Jesus is perfectly righteous and can stand in our place.

Our theme this morning is "Jesus the Righteous."

I think we often take the fact of Christ's sinlessness for granted. We often emphasize the impeccability of Christ, which means that He could not have sinned. The Bible is clear that Jesus is God. God is perfectly holy, and "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." God cannot sin; therefore, Jesus could not have sinned.

However, in our eagerness to defend the impeccability of Christ, we must not forget that Jesus was tempted. (Now, He wasn't tempted in the same that we are, because He didn't have a sin nature. But He was tempted the same way that Adam and Eve were!)

Scripture even indicates that Christ had to work to resist temptation! It didn't just "roll off His back," so to speak! We learn this from the account of how Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

But how was that possible? What miracle allowed the divine Son of God to be tempted? The answer is, "the incarnation." James 1:13 says, "God cannot be tempted with evil...." The preincarnate Christ was never tempted. But when Jesus became a man, He opened Himself up to temptation. Worship Jesus this morning because He was tempted.

But also, worship Jesus because He resisted temptation. Can I ask you an odd, hypothetical question? What would have happened if Jesus had sinned? Could you still have been saved? The answer is "no!" Now, I call that an odd, hypothetical question because it couldn't have happened. But I ask it anyways in order to remind you that from a human standpoint, everything was at stake when Jesus was tempted!

Christ had to earn righteousness as a human being in order for that righteousness to be credited to your account. Only a perfect sacrifice could atone for sin. Christ had to resist temptation—and He did.

In the famous Old Testament story, David fought Goliath as the representative for his people. According to the rules, if David wins, all of Israel wins. In the same way, Christ is our representative who defeated Satan for us both by living a perfect life and by dying on the cross for our sins.

Maybe you struggled with sin last week, and to you this morning, Satan seems undefeatable. If that is the case, then remember this: Satan has already been defeated. Jesus beat Him for you! If you are in Christ, then you have been justified! That means that not only are your sins forgiven, but when God sees you, He sees Jesus! Let's praise God for "Jesus the Righteous." **(Kristopher Schaal)**

Promotional Post: Could Jesus have sinned when He was tempted? Why was Jesus baptized? In worship this Sunday, we look at the proven righteous character of Christ and how that affects our own standing with God. Join us! These Scripture passages can help you prepare:

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]