



281.890.1900
TheMETonline.org

Jones Road Campus
13000 Jones Road | Houston, TX 77070

Fry Road Campus | Hopper Middle School
7811 Fry Road | Houston, TX 77433

[Introductory video of an employer, meeting with a job applicant and reading his résumé:]

All right, what do we have here? Steve? [Applicant nods affirmatively.] It says here that you were valedictorian of your high school. You made Eagle Scout at the age of 16, captain of the football team, graduated *summa cum laude*. Okay, you made it through grad school in two years and you made it to president of your company in just seven years. So, is that it?

[Pastor Sal:] How would you like to work for that dude? Or maybe you do, I don't know. But that would be hard because no matter what you did you would never, ever be good enough. In fact we're in a brand-new series of messages called, *You Don't Have What It Takes* and this first subject is on that: *You Aren't Good Enough*.

Now the problem with what we just saw—though it's funny—many times that happens to us spiritually. Many times we'll let the enemy tell us: You're not good enough.

- You're not good enough to go on a mission.
- You're not good enough to teach a *Life Group*.
- You're not good enough to volunteer with *Students*.
- You're not good enough to work in the *Kids Ministry*.

You're not even good enough to hand out a bulletin for Heaven's sake. Because if those people knew about you what I knew about you they would know you are not good enough.

That's what the devil does; he manipulates truth—

- He twists it
- He puts a perversion on it

Because it is true that you will never be good enough (and I will never be good enough). That is simply the truth. One of the things that we need to recognize very early on; in that, in order to be what God wants us to be we need to recognize that we will never be good enough.

YOU WILL NEVER BE GOOD ENOUGH

Let me tell you what the devil will do:

- He will come and he will remind you of all your sin and all your shortcomings (and)
- When you want to witness to somebody, he'll just say: That person knows you. You shouldn't be talking to them. They're going to know that you're a hypocrite.
- When you want to take your marriage and you want your marriage to be godly: Your spouse is going to think you're crazy. She knows you; he knows you; they're going to—why even attempt?

And that happens and always happens because we don't understand that the bad news is really the good news.

THE BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

The bad news is: I'm not good enough (we are not good enough). But the good news is: I am not good enough (you are not good enough). In other words, we will never be good enough to be

able to gain God's approval in our lives. Rather than trying to gain His approval, we serve and we do out of the approval that we have through Jesus Christ.

Now there are some very famous people in the Bible that when they came face to face with God, here's the one thing they took away from that: I am not good enough. Now I want to show you some Bible characters and what they said. (And) I want to say these things together.

- The first one is **Abraham**. Abraham, the book of *Romans* calls him the father of the faith—the first one to put faith in God. Now because of that, when Abraham had this one-on-one relationship with God—let's say this together (you ready?)—here's what he said: "I"—okay, now I said altogether now, you ready?—one, two, three— "I am nothing but dust and ashes..." [*Genesis 18:27 (NIV)*] "I am nothing but dust and ashes..."—the father of our faith, the one who God says is "my friend" [*Isaiah 41:8 (NIV)*], "the friend of God." [*James 2:23 (NLT, 1996 edition)*] He comes face to face with God and says: I'm just "dust and ashes."
- Another one: **Isaiah**, great prophet of God. When God was calling him to do something great for Him, he has this great vision of God, and here's what he says—ready?—together: "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips..." [*Isaiah 6:5 (NIV)*] Now when I listen to you God, when I see You, everything that comes out of my mouth is filth. It falls far short of who You are and what You are.
- Remember the story of **Peter**? When he was through fishing one day (and he and his buddies) and Jesus comes up to him and says: I want you to go out now and take Me fishing. [Peter's thinking:] Oh! You're good about the Bible, Jesus, but You don't know anything about fishing. It's the middle of the day. We don't fish in the middle of the day—fish are sleeping or something—because they're not going to bite when we go out there. But he said: Okay, we'll get in the boat. They get in the boat. Jesus said: Take your nets, cast them on that side of the boat, [and] when they did they brought in so many fish that the boats began to sink—even his partner's boats began to sink with so many fish. Because of that, Peter looks at Jesus—repeat with me now—and says this: "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!" [*Luke 5:8 (NIV)*] The same one [about whom] Jesus said, "[U]pon this rock I will build my church." [*Matthew 16:18*] Your faith in Me, Peter; you're going to be a spokesman for Me.

Peter looks at Him and says: I'm not good enough.

Isaiah said: I'm not good enough.

Abraham said: I'm not good enough.

- The apostle **Paul**, who wrote almost two-thirds of the *New Testament*. When he was talking about Jesus Christ, came to die for sinners; as a parenthetical statement he said the following—and let's say it together: "...and I was the worst of them all." [*1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT, 1996 edition)*].

Now look what you just said about yourself:

- I am nothing but dust and ashes.
- I am ruined! I have unclean lips.

- Go away from me Lord; I'm a sinful man!
- And I am the worst of all of them.

Every one of those statements [is] true about every one of us. If that weren't enough—if we couldn't identify with a [particular] person in the Bible—then God just goes ahead and lumps us all into one big, giant group together, and that's found in *Romans 3:23*. Here, this is what God says: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" [in *NIV*]

Do you know what that Greek word *all* means? It means: all, everybody, everyone. It is an inclusive word—

- No matter what continent
- ...what timeframe
- ...when you were in history
- ...what color you might be
- ...what nation you come from
- ...what language you might speak
- ...what religion you may be

—nobody is good enough.

Now I love watching the Winter Olympics. For whatever reason, ever since I was a kid, two things [have] enthralled me because I grew up in Canada:

- Curling (which is a sport by the way; don't make fun of curling; and then)
- The second one I always loved was ski jumping—you know when they come down that big ol' ramp and they take off in the air? I remember the days when they put the little wings on the inside [underarms] of their costumes—their uniforms, I mean, started talking like my wife—their uniforms. Now the world record is somewhere around 250 yards. That's a pretty long ways to be in the air and then hit down on the ice.

But what if you took a ski jump and you put it in Galveston and you said: Okay, let's see who can jump from here all the way to the coast of Florida:

- Let's start with the world record holder. You know what he would do? He would get up there, he would get tucked down, and he would go—and he would launch himself—and he would go 250 yards, right in the middle of a sand bar, close to Galveston, right off shore.
- Then everybody would try. And everyone on this planet, no matter how good they were, none of them—none of them—even the best of them (that were not good) would not be able to make it over to the shore of Florida.
- In fact, if everybody could just do 100 yards, it would take 1,408,000 people doing 100 yards at a time just to make it to the coast of Florida. It's impossible!

What God is saying: Every one of us [is] lumped into the category of You're-Not-Good-Enough.

Now what happens is that we think if we do a little bit better, that God will look at us and say: You—you're good enough. That's why so many people are perfectionists; because we start to feel a sense of pride about what we're doing—an accomplishment—and we have the security

that—you know what?—I’m better than some people. But when we don’t perform, we get this false sense of condemnation that I’m not good enough. It’s what I call *The Performance Trap*.

THE PERFORMANCE TRAP

Now if anybody could have said, “I am better than any other person,” in the area of religion it would be the apostle Paul. In *Philippians, chapter 3*, he (kind of) gives his list of “good” that he was. Before coming to Jesus, here’s what Paul said he was like:

Yet I could have confidence in myself if anyone could. If others
have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!
Philippians 3:4 (NLT, 1996 edition)

Here’s the 250-yard-world-record ski jump guy, okay? He said: I’m the one that’s the best.

For I was circumcised when I was eight days old...
Philippians 3:5a (NLT, 1996 edition)

(I mean) that was the law. If you were going to be a Jewish person who kept the law, then your parents had to circumcise you no sooner and no later than the eighth day as a child. The Judaisers, people [who] were coming into the Christian Church, [were] saying: Jesus isn’t enough. You’ve got to have Jesus plus—you Gentiles who have never been circumcised—you need to be circumcised. I couldn’t think of any worse news for an adult than that piece of news right there. So Paul is writing this and he uses a word for circumcised, literally, that means to be mutilated. In other words: You think you are great being circumcised; why don’t you just go ahead and get mutilated? Now look what he goes on to say—he said:

...having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a
branch of the tribe of Benjamin....
Philippians 3:5a (NLT, 1996 edition)

His great-great-great grandfather was Billy Graham and one of his aunts was Mother Teresa. You don’t get any [more] spiritual than that.

⁵ ...So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! {I am the best of the best.} What’s more, even more than just being a Jew, I was a member of the Pharisees who demanded the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ And zealous? {Passion! Dedicated!} ...I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault.
Philippians 3:5b-6 (NLT, 1996 edition)

Now, you may know the *Ten Commandments*. I doubt any [one] of us in the room has ever consistently kept the *Ten Commandments*. Do you know how many commandments a Jewish Pharisee had to keep?—[613]—and Paul said: When people observed my life, nobody could ever accuse me of breaking any one of the [613] laws that I had to live by. “I still wasn’t good enough,” is what he was going to say. If there was anyone [who] had any reason to put any

confidence in their works to please God, Paul was the one. But he's saying: I was under *The Performance Trap*.

Now, how does that work out in our lives? Our attempt to please God by following rules is a performance trap.

OUR ATTEMPT TO PLEASE GOD BY FOLLOWING RULES

Now you say: Oh well, you know, we're not into that *Old Testament* stuff, the Levitical law, or the Pharisees—no. But we do have some rules that we live by. Now, depending upon what flavor of Christianity you are in—or coming out of, or have been exposed to—our rules are different. So really, it's not a true standard of measurement—it's a false standard—because it varies based upon your personal preference of what you can do, what you can't do, and what you've been taught. But there [are] basically two camps:

There is the “I do” camp. In other words: I am right with God and I'm good enough because I do some things:

- I read my bible
- I give some money
- I pray
- I witness
- I even hosted a *D-Now* group (How much closer to God can you be?)
- I teach
- I greet
- I do; I do; I do

The negative group, in the attempt to please God, is known by what they “don't do.”

- I don't listen to secular music; I only listen to *KSBJ* [the local Christian radio station]. (That's not me. But I'm just saying, if you're in that group, that's one of the things that you're proud of.)
- You're proud of the fact that you don't smoke.
- You don't drink alcohol—in the presence of others—you don't drink alcohol. (This is obviously a Baptist church, because we all got that, didn't we? And by the way, Jesus didn't turn water to grape juice—I don't care who told you what—it's wine.)
- I don't go to R-rated movies.
- I won't even go to a PG-13 if there's any kind of sexual content, but if bodies are blowing up, count me in.

If we live under the “I do” or the “I don't” here's what's going to happen:

- When we are doing good, we are going to feel good and we are going to feel like we're really close to God.
- But when we are not doing good, we are not going to feel good and we are not going to feel like we are close to God.

Do you know why? Because when we live like that—when our attempt to please God is by following rules—then it follows that my worth is based on what I produce and how I perform.

When I live by rules and regulations—what I do and what I don't do—for my standing before God, then my worth is based on what I produce and how I perform.

MY WORTH IS BASED ON WHAT I PRODUCE AND HOW I PERFORM

Let me tell you, this is something that's been true of my life since I can remember. Second place was never good; only first place is good. I didn't have a good practice in any sport unless I had my name called out for doing something better than someone else did. The thing that made me the maddest is: on Friday nights when I made the tackle, they called somebody else's name. I said: Hey, that's me! I did that! I want the credit for doing that.

Can you imagine the pressure on Olympic athletes right now?—especially the ones they interviewed: This is— (you know what?) you're favored for the medal and you're supposed to win the gold (and blah, blah, blah, blah) and—

- They get up there (and)
- They hit a piece of ice (or)
- They get tangled up (or)
- Someone bumps them (and)
- They lose their speed

And, all of a sudden, they don't produce what everybody thought that they would produce. I think some of the happiest people at the Olympics are those [who] are in twenty-eighth place. Nobody was expecting anything. They just went out there and had a blast. But when the pressure is on to produce and the pressure is on to perform, it's never good.

How does it work out today in my life? Well—

- Some of you will walk out of here and when you see me and go: Oh, Pastor, great message! That's where I was, man [patting his heart]. You know me! [Demonstrating the two-fingers-in-the-eyes gesture meaning: you see right into me.]
- Some of you are going to walk out and say: I can't [demonstrates mouth agape]. That's the worst— Man, I'm going to send him an e-mail! (Don't...please! Send it to Bill Norman [Lead Pastor of *Administration and Operations*].)
- I love it when people say: Man, I tell you, you just spoke to me. It was like—ah!—you were just right there in the pew next to me. Man, you must have a camera at my house. (I do.) You must know all that stuff.
- And then others say: Man, I just can't believe it. I'm so mad.

And so, when people say it's good, then I feel good. And when people say it's bad, then I feel bad. And when the church grows, I must be good—God, look at this—people are joining and folks are coming and I feel really good. But then when people leave, I feel really bad. Because if they're coming, it must be because of me; and if they're leaving, it must be because of me. So I must not be good when I don't produce and I don't perform.

Well, what Paul is saying about his performance (about how he used to measure his relationship with God): If anybody could have been good enough (he says) it was me. But what he goes on to say is: But my religious works were nothing but a load of *skubala* [a transliterated Greek word]. You say: What is that?—You're going to find out.

OUR WORKS ARE A LOAD OF SKUBALA

Skubala—say that with me: Skubala. Now, here’s where we know this. Later, in *chapter 3 of Philippians*:

⁷ But whatever was to my profit {whatever I produced} I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them {skubala} ...that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, {of doing and performing—and don’t do and do—the things that you’re supposed to do} but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Philippians 3:7-9 (NIV)

The righteousness that I have, that you have with God, is not on our own; it is by faith in Christ alone. I could never work enough to please God. You can never work enough. I can never stop sinning enough to please God. I can never be made right with God other than by faith in the perfect sacrifice of His perfect Son, Jesus Christ. That’s the only way I can be right with God.

So when I understand and recognize that, the very words that Satan wants to use against me, i.e., “You’re never going to be good enough,” God now takes those to set me free. I can’t be good enough. I have to trust Him and Him alone, and that takes the pressure off. The only way that we’re ever going to be good enough is to recognize we’ll never be good enough, and understand God (through his Son Jesus) is more than good enough when we say: Hey! Take my *skubala*, God, and give me the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Hey, let me tell you how that works. Years ago when Pastor Robbie [Schwandt, *Adult Groups Pastor*] had just become a believer and was going to church here, we were real close with Robbie and had him to our house a lot of times for dinner and talked to him about the Lord and stuff.

(And) one Sunday after church he said: Hey, Sal, let me take you and your family out to lunch.

I said: Man, great! (I’m always looking for a free lunch) and so I said: Thank you, bro! And so my wife Kristi, Salvatore, and Kelcie, we loaded up and he took us to this very, very nice restaurant, man. And it was a great meal: appetizers, dessert, the whole nine yards. And then the bill came and I noticed Robbie do this [demonstrates searching all pockets for a wallet]. And as I was looking at him, in my mind I’m going: And we came in my vehicle and he doesn’t have his truck.

And so he looked at me and said: Uh, bro, I forgot my wallet!

And you know what I said? Not a problem, dude. I’ve got it covered. I will pay for it. Why did I pay for it? Robbie didn’t have the ability to pay for it; someone else had to pay for it.

And that's the bottom line with God: Is that you and I don't have the ability to pay to be righteous with God. There's not enough we can do. Somebody else paid for it and that somebody else is Jesus. When we started doing this—[pantomimes searching our pockets] about not having any righteousness and not adding up—Jesus said: Don't worry about it; I've got it covered. I've got it covered; and all Jesus has to do is cover it one time.

I can't tell you how many times Robbie forgot his wallet after that.

What's *skubala*? Are you ready? [Skubala (skoo'-bal-a)]: (it's) what is thrown to the dogs; (it's) excrement; (it's) dung. In modern terminology, the nicest way to say it would be: poop. [It's] actually even a more harsh version of that word. In fact, you could put that word there and the word *happens* after it and you would understand exactly what the apostle Paul is saying here.

This is what he said (are you ready?)—this is harsh, but it needs to be for us to understand something: In the eyes of God everything we do to be right with God outside of Jesus Christ is a pile...in God's eyes. (And) the apostle Paul said: [613] laws I kept 24/7 and nobody could ever accuse me not to; yet when I look at what God did for me in Jesus, it's rubbish/dung/*skubala*.

And so I'm telling you: If you think that you are better than anybody else because of what you do or what you don't do, you've got to get back to understanding what our righteousness—outside of Jesus Christ—is: "filthy rags." [Isaiah 64:6] That's it; that's what makes Jesus so beautiful. And that's what makes Christianity such an easy thing, because—

- I can't; He never said I could.
- He can and He promised that He would.

No other religion in the world is going to teach you that—no other religion in the world.

Skubala: It's something that frees me, under the grace of God, not to perform *for* His approval; but *from* His approval in Christ, do what He wants me to do.

Do you know what the three most beautiful words are in the entire Bible?—the next three:

BUT WHEN GOD...

Everything I did was dung; it was nothing; it was worthless—"But when God..." In *Galatians, chapter 1*, Paul's giving his testimony:

¹⁵ But when God...called me by his grace... ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles...

Galatians 1:15-16 (NIV)

God didn't call Paul because Paul was good enough, did He? He called Paul by His grace.

Do you know how you got into this family, how I got into this family? God just didn't look down and say: Man, look at Sal. He's a pretty sharp kid, isn't he? Man, look at that ability. Let's have that boy. We like him. He's better than most people. No, huh-uh!

God by His grace said: You're just like everyone else, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Sal. [*Romans 3:23 (NIV)*] And let me tell you what I'm going to do: No matter what you've done outside of Jesus, it doesn't relate and mean anything to Me; but in Jesus you're everything to Me. So let Me take your *skubala* and replace it with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

You know what I said?—in...I'm in! I'll take that deal. And once you're in, you're never going to get out. You're never going to get out.

And so Paul is saying this: Many times we simply have an "I" problem.

Here's what we say:

- When *I* am good enough, then *I'm* going to make a difference for God.
- When *I* finally get a little more understanding in God's Word, *I* am going to start to teach.
- When *I* pray some more...
- When *I* finally quit this habitual sin that *I* have, then *I* can do something for God; then *I'll* serve.
- When *I* finally get my life straightened out, then *I'll* be a good witness at work.
- When *I* finally get my finances together, then *I'll* start giving.

I'm telling you: You're never, never, never going to be good enough. It's never going to be straightened out to your satisfaction. You are never going to make the time. Only in Christ are we ever going to find any satisfaction that we please God thoroughly—only in Christ.

"But when I" is the problem, and the problem is:

- I never can.
- I don't have what it takes.
- I never will.
- In my own power I cannot ever succeed.

And that's what Satan wants to do and to beat us down with—the truth that God uses to set us free: You're not good enough; I'm going to use that to set you free. Satan's going to say: You're not good enough; you can't serve God. That's why he's our enemy.

I'm going to tell you: The good news is we're not good enough and that's what makes the good news—the Gospel—the Good News. You will never be good enough. But whenever you are weak, His strength is made perfect.

- But when God calls you, it doesn't matter what other people think...
- But when God forgives you, it doesn't matter if Satan brings up your past to beat you with it, you're forgiven...
- But when God empowers you, it doesn't matter what other people may be thinking about you—what you can and what you can't do—God is the one [who] has called you and empowered you; it doesn't matter...
- But when God heals you, it doesn't matter what the doctors say...
- But when God, but when God, but when God calls you, not because you're good enough, but because, by His grace...

- But when God changes everything—changes everything...
- But when God gets in your marriage...
- But when God gets in your life...
- But when God calls you by His grace...

—your life will be different.

Here's the key statement (and then we close): When I realize that God accepts me through Christ—as I am—no longer living for His approval, but from His approval.

WHEN I REALIZE THAT GOD ACCEPTS ME THROUGH CHRIST I AM NO LONGER LIVING FOR HIS APPROVAL BUT FROM HIS APPROVAL

I and you (if you're in Christ), we're not trying to please God; we are pleasing to God. And because we are, we are free to serve God and be empowered by Him and be able to love Him without being under *The Performance Trap*. I don't need to feel the guilt and the failure. Instead I need to feel the acceptance and the love. And I need to please God out of the strength and security of knowing that I am right with God through Christ; and that changes everything.

So if I'm doing great or if I'm not doing so great, that doesn't determine my standing with God; it is sealed forever and ever and ever and ever through all eternity. In Jesus Christ I am righteous; and because of that, I want to live that way.

What about you this morning—were you brought up in some kind of way that made you think:

- Man, if I don't do these things, God's not going to be—I'm not going to be right with God?
- I'm never going to be able to say some certain things unless I do these things? (and)
- I better not do these other things because if I do those things, then I won't be right with God?

Why don't we—today—just settle the issue and say: I'm never going to be good enough no matter what I do. So I'm going to trust what God did in Christ to make me good enough. Then we can stop judging people too. Because when we all understand that we're all not good enough, then it's a lot easier to be easier on people who aren't doing what you do, or do the things that you don't do—because we're all in the same boat.

Would you pray with me this morning? As our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed, I want you to just zero in on what God's saying to you.

Some of us are living under *The Performance Trap*; you're trying to please God by living by rules. You think your worth is based on what you produce. You may be a perfectionist and when you achieve your standard of perfection, you feel good; but when you don't, you feel guilty, horribly guilty. Don't you want to be set free by the truth that we are more than good enough in Christ?

- If that's the case
- If that's you this morning (and nobody looking around)

- If that's the type of Christianity that you've been living—and you want to be free from that, just slip your hand up in the air right now. Yes. Amen...everywhere...up and down...everywhere...up...everywhere. My hand's up. Man, I get caught up in that. Let me pray for us.

God, I thank You for the moment that we have right now to say: We want to be free. And I pray, God, that You would free us—not that we need to please You, but we are pleasing to You in Christ. And forgive us for ever trying to work our way to You. May we trust in Jesus and Jesus alone. And may we find our worth is based on who You say we are and not on what we do. God, I pray that we would become even more obedient to You because of how much You love us and what You've already done for us.

(And) there are some of you here now in this room (as we continue to pray) that your whole understanding of God has been warped by trying to earn your way into Heaven. And maybe you grew up in a church and you think that way; and if you follow those rules, that you're going to make it. But let me tell you now: You're never going to be made right with God trying on your own. You can't stop sinning your way to Him. You've heard the message of Jesus for a long time, but it's never [sunk] into your heart; you've never trusted Him. Today's the day to step across the line.

If that's you—if you've never stepped across the line of faith—but maybe you've been in church and you've heard the message. But when I talk to you about that freedom in knowing: I am good enough because of what God has done and Christ inside of me; and if you want Jesus that way this morning, raise your hands up high in the air. Let me see them. God bless you...yes. Listen, I came from a church; I tried to work my way and I gave up, because I know I wasn't good. If you want Christ in your heart this morning, pray this simple prayer after me, silently as I do aloud:

Dear God, I can't do enough to be right with You and it's been a hard way on me trying to do that. I accept what Jesus did for me when He died on the cross for me. Come into my life. Take away my works that are nothing but a pile of dung and give me the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

(Our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed) if you prayed that prayer, put your hand up in the air real high. Let me see them. I prayed that, Pastor. God bless you. God bless you. God bless you. God bless you. In a moment I'm going to end our prayer—and as soon as I do—if you prayed one of those prayers, you just take that *Connection Card* and check the box: I have prayed to receive Christ or I've prayed to draw closer to Him. Whatever box applies to you, would you check that so when we take our offering in a moment, you can put that in the offering plate?

(And) Father, thank You that we are good enough because Jesus made us good enough. Thank You, Lord, for all of these students that have had a work of God done in their lives through the *D-Now* weekend. I pray, Lord, that You would deepen that and strengthen it. Use them more so than You've ever used anybody in this church before.

And so, God, we just want You to know that we love You and we thank You for being good enough for those of us who could never be good enough. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Let me have your attention one second before Pastor Zach [King, *Student and College* pastor] comes out and closes up.

Beginning in several weeks we're going to start at the 8:00 hour a true traditional church service. For those of you that like a more traditional form of worship, we're going to be offering that at 8:00 as we have *Student Worship* as well. We'll have contemporary at 9:30 [worship] and 11:00 [worship] and then we have *Fry Road* worship. Since I'm not over there, I have no idea what that is; I'm assuming it's pretty close to what we're doing over here.

Leading us in that traditional worship service is going to be Wayne Maydwell. You've seen Wayne (there he is)—been on the [piano and keyboard] keys for a long time—great brother, one of the most encouraging, happiest guys that I know. He's going to be working with the choir and the orchestra. It's going to take some time to put it together, but Wayne's got the experience. He's been a worship leader here in Houston and California, as well. He's got a heart for God and He's God's man for us. So thank you, brother. Glad that you're here with us, man.

Lead Pastor: Dr. Sal Sberna

The MET
Metropolitan Baptist Church
13000 Jones Rd
Houston, TX 77070

Sermon Transcript Ministry
resource@TheMETonline.org

**But people are counted as righteous,
not because of their work, but
because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.**

Romans 4:5

(New Living Translation, 2004 edition)

Legend:

(words in parentheses) = spoken by the preacher *but unnecessary* to the core sentence idea

[words in square brackets] = additional explanation for clarity *not spoken* by the preacher

{words in curly brackets within indented quote} = spoken explanation *not part of the quote*