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## RIGHTEOUSNESS OBTAINED.

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OUR desire for grace is the measure of our grace. We have, all we want. We are as holy as we wish to be. He who had the power to turn into gold every thing he touched, had all the gold he coveted. In the Kingdom of Christ every one that asketh receiveth just the grace for which he asks. *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*—Mat. v. 6.

The Greek word translated righteousness is *dikaiosune*, which signifies *the being or doing what is just and right*. Our English word is from the old Saxon *rightwiness*, and signifies that which is according to true wisdom. Those are righteous or *right wise* who think and act according to the wisdom which comes from above.

As an attribute of God, it is that perfection of the divine nature, by reason of which He is most just and most holy in himself. In all his dealings with His creatures, He observes the strictest rules of rectitude and equity. "O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces as at this day."—Dan. ix. 7. It implies rigid impartiality. "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge

the world in righteousness."—Acts. xvii. 31.

Righteousness is a term of wide signification. It includes all the graces of the Spirit, which taken together, form the perfect Christian character. It implies true contrition. Self is renounced. It does not take the imaginary goodness of human nature as its foundation. It builds on Christ. Its language is:

"I loathe myself when God I see,  
And into nothing fall,  
Content that thou exalted be,  
And Christ be all in all."

He who professes it does not feel important; he is remarkable for self-abasement. God pronounced Job a righteous man. But Job said, *I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Righteousness is another name for moral purity or holiness. It stands opposed to heart iniquity, as well as sinfulness in the life. *Awake to righteousness and sin not.*—1 Cor. xv. 34. *Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*—Eph. iv. 24. As wealth stands as the representative of all kinds of property, so righteousness includes all the riches of grace in Christ Jesus. There is nothing we need to have God do in us, that does not come under the head of righteousness.

Hunger is the uneasy sensation occasioned by the want of food, and thirst by the want of drink. After long ab-