

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven E. Harold 7100 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 1N8
Associate Pastor: Rev. Wayne Zhang Phone: 604-278-5766 Website: tlc-lcc.ca
Youth Director: Ms. Samantha Neeb Email: tlcoffice@telus.net
President: Mr. Allen Schellenberg

SERMON OUTLINE -- JULY 3, 2022

The Only Two Religions

(Genesis 15:5-6)

INTRODUCTION: *“The Lady & the Tiger Legend*
– Door #1 or Door #2?

I. DOOR #1

– THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MAN: Good Works

A. What the world counts as righteous: *being a “good person”*

B. The world’s view leads to false beliefs, like:

1. *We deserve special treatment from God*

- a) “Faith Theology” – *the desperate farmer from north of Seattle*
- b) But what about **Romans 3:23**?

2. *We get right with God by our deeds*

- a) But what about **Matthew 5:48**?
- b) And surely let’s see **Isaiah 64:6**
- c) This caused St. Paul great anguish for his Jewish brethren
(Romans 9:2-3)

C. The world’s view leads to a false and precarious sense of security

- 1. How can we ever be sure we are “good enough”?
- 2. How can we be sure our deeds are the “right ones”?
- 3. We end up (literally) on the dead end street (**Proverbs 14:12**)

(continued on next page)

II. DOOR #2

– THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD: Faith

- A. God gives His promise to Abraham (**Genesis 12:2 and 15:5**)
- B. God creates faith in Abraham’s heart
 - 1. Abraham believes God (**Genesis 15:5-6**)
 - 2. On the basis of faith’s object, Abraham is counted righteous (**Genesis 15:6**)
- C. Righteousness is God’s act, not man’s!
 - 1. It is given apart from “work-righteousness” (**Romans 4:1-3**)
 - 2. It is based on God’s gift, received by faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)
- D. Abraham believed that:
 - 1. God would provide him with a son (**Romans 4:18-22**)
 - 2. God would send His Son, the Saviour (**John 8:56**)

III. HOW CAN YOU BE RIGHTEOUS?

- A. Just like Abraham: by trusting faith (**Genesis 15:6**)
- B. Faith’s object is God’s promise in Jesus.
- C. This promise has been kept! (**Romans 4:23-25**)

CONCLUSION: *It all depends on Who is holding your hand . . .*