

Righteousness

Concept:

“Anyone who lives on milk, being an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 5:13-14) It is interesting to note, in this passage that maturity is tied to knowing about righteousness. If we want to get off the milk of God’s Word, then righteousness is part of the meat of the word that we had better start chewing.

Scripture states, in Isaiah 64:6, that my works of righteousness is like filthy rags and Romans 3:10 explains that in our human effort there is no righteousness produced. We can quickly conclude that righteousness is not something that we are going to obtain in our own effort or merit. In the natural outflow, of our lives, we are unable to achieve a righteousness that is pleasing before God. Human effort is something that mankind has been using to some how gain an entrance to the Lord. We see Cain’s offering was brought to the Lord with an attitude to show the greatness of his human effort. Genesis 4:4 shows us that the Lord did not receive Cain or the offering. God’s plan is that He will give us everything that pleases Him and we simply give it back to Him as a good steward.

Isaiah 32:17 shows us that righteousness will bear fruit in our lives. A consequence of righteousness will begin to produce results in our lives, however the result is because righteousness is present, not to get righteousness. Righteousness is received, it is not obtained, but because it is present then it causes a change to happen in our life. Righteousness is a gift from the Father not a payment of my human effort. Righteousness is so powerful that when we are aware of it, we will flee sin (I Corinthians 15:34) and so life changing that we will have boldness to enter the very throne room of God. Righteousness will adjust my focus from my sin to the Father’s forgiveness, from the work with my hands to obtain the love of God to knowing that we have the unconditional love that is always flowing toward us, and from my human insecurity to His divine acceptance. An understanding of righteousness will change our lives from believers who are hoping for the Lord’s blessings, to a believer who is ready to share their abundance before it ever is manifest.

Definition of Terms:

Righteousness: dikaiosune (Greek): In a broad sense the state of him who is, as he ought to be, righteousness is the condition acceptable to God. Integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting. (Thayer)

Righteousness: tsedaqah (hebrew): righteousness, morally (virtue) and figuratively (prosperity): justice, cleanse, clear self (Strong)

Matthew Henry’s Commentary: “The renewed man acts upon new principles, by new rules, with new ends, and in new company. The believer is created anew; his heart is not

merely set right, but a new heart is given him...Though the same as a man, he is changed in his character and conduct.”

Righteousness: dikaiosune (Greek) equity of character or act, by implication innocent, holy and just, right (as self evident), justice (the principle, a decision, or its execution), to show forth (Strongs)

Righteousness: tsaddiq (Hebrew): One who is right, just, clear, clean, righteous; a person who is characterized by fairness, integrity, and justice in his dealings. Conveys justice and integrity in one's lifestyle. (Spirit Filled Bible)

Righteousness: dikaiosune: (Greek): Just, the quality of being right. Broadly, the word suggests conformity to the revealed will of God in all respects. Dikaisune is both judicial and gracious. God declares the believer righteous, in the sense of acquitting him, and imparts righteousness in him. (Spirit Filled Bible)

Righteousness facts: It is Christ doing right because He did all that was required of God to redeem men (Romans 5:18). Produced by the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). God declares man free from guilt and acceptable to Him and declares we are righteous. (Romans 3:25) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit entered into the arena of human sin so we could be set free from the bondage of that human sin. God based the foundation upon which He could forgive sin, how He could declare sinners righteous, and still be a Just God on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:26) Constant trust or commitment to God is the just and sole requirement of the man who is declared righteous. (Romans 4:4-5)

Scripture Application:

1. Matthew 3:15
2. Matthew 6:33
3. Matthew 21:32
4. Acts 10:34-35
5. Acts 17:31
6. Acts 24:25
7. Romans 1:17
8. Romans 3:5
9. Romans 3:21-22, 26
10. Romans 4:3-5

11. Romans 4: 11, 13
12. Romans 5:17
13. Romans 5:21
14. Romans 6:13
15. Romans 6:16
16. Romans 8:10
17. Romans 9:30-32
18. Romans 10:3-6
19. Romans 10:9,10
20. I Corinthians 15:34
21. I Corinthians 1:30
22. II Corinthians 3:9
23. II Corinthians 5:21
24. II Corinthians 6:7
25. II Corinthians 9:9-10
26. Galatians 2:21
27. Galatians 5:5
28. Ephesians 4:24
29. Ephesians 5:9
30. Philippians 1:10-12
31. I Timothy 6:11
32. II Timothy 2:22
33. II Timothy 3:16

34. Titus 3:5
35. Hebrews 11:7
36. Hebrews 12:11
37. James 1:20
38. I Peter 2:24
39. II Peter 2:21
40. I John 2:29
41. Isaiah 64:6
42. Genesis 15:6
43. Deuteronomy 6:25
44. Psalms 11:7
45. Psalms 22:31
46. Psalms 51:14
47. Psalms 89:16
48. Psalms 103:6
49. Proverbs 10:2
50. Proverbs 21:21
51. Isaiah 32:17-18
52. Isaiah 61:10-11
53. Hosea 10:12
54. Amos 5:7
55. Micah 6:5

Summary:

Remember as you continue to study righteousness, keep in mind that righteousness is a positional truth and a temporal truth. The positional truth states that we are righteous as a gift from the Lord. Because of this gift we have access at any time into the throne room of God. We have been made righteous by the gift of righteousness that Christ gave us at new birth. We can never have better standing before the Lord than we have right now. The Lord accepts us because of the cleansing of His blood and what He has made us into by His great love. There is also a temporal righteousness that needs to flow out of our inner man that makes us right. That is a force that is ever increasing as we submit to His Lordship and allow His Spirit to lead our spirit into His ways. As we learn to walk in the spirit, then the fruits of righteousness begin to mature in our life and our temporal walk and our positional standing begin to match up. We want what we are in heaven to be how we are on the earth. What heaven is saying about us needs to be what the people on the earth are saying about us!

Action:

Begin to speak in your prayer time that you are righteous and that you have access to the throne of God. Declare that you have on the garments of salvation, which includes the breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14). Take God at His word and know that you are righteous and that righteousness will change how you handle every situation. Let's believe that the force of righteousness is going to move you in a position of acting and believing right.