

Rom. 14:19

So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

February

7

2016

## IS RIGHTEOUSNESS WORTH IT?

Jim Stauffer

**Matt. 5:20** *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.* There was criticism offered by Christ that indicates the Pharisees failed to embrace the principle of righteousness under the Law of Moses. Here he laments the level of righteousness to which they aspired and taught His disciples that would not satisfy the call for righteousness by God and Christ.

In **verse 6** of this chapter He lauds those who seek after righteousness. This indicates it is not something we inherently pursue and achieve, but rather it is accomplished with specific focus. **Verse 10** tells us it is a minority position since those who seek it will be persecuted for their efforts. **Verses 11,12** let us know we are following Christ when we pursue righteousness and will be blessed to be a part of His kingdom as we endure such persecution.

Was persecution the only reason the Pharisees had perverted justice among the Jews? No! They are the ones Jesus warns His disciples about. They, along with their religious adversaries, the Sadducees, would join forces against those who would follow the righteousness of Christ (**Acts 4&5**).

The unjust conduct of the Pharisees along with the Sadducees led the general population away from the initial intent of the Law. Jesus documented the sins of the Pharisees in **Matthew 23** when He pointed out seven (eight KJV) times how their zest for material wealth and power were the driving forces that led them to a perverted sense of righteousness.

This desire for the nicer things of this life did not begin or end with the Pharisees. John not only decries such an attitude but identifies the source of it.

**1 John 2:15** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the*

*love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.* Satan sells us those things most appealing to our flesh. He lies to us by presenting them as being in our best interest. Jesus identified him as the father of lies (**John 8:44**).

Now the question we raised, "Is righteousness worth it?" Is it of any real value to stand on principle and have your conduct/conversation pure in the eyes of the Lord? Peter says it will cause people to, *glorify God in the day of visitation* (**1 Pet. 2:12**). He later says, *they may be put to shame who revile your good conversation in Christ* (**1 Pet. 3:16**).

It is no small thing that mankind believes he has transcended the wisdom of God. Take a moment and list all the things you can where popular opinion has moved away from God and the Bible. Homosexuality, abortion, the rights of parents to control the influence over their own children, the creation of the Universe. These are just a few. In each case there is this small minority who must stand for and continue to seek after righteousness. Jesus says of those people and their efforts, they are the *salt of the earth* and the *light of the world* (**Mat. 5:13-16**).

Again, "Is righteousness worth it?" You be the judge. Broken homes have become the norm. Can you see how well children are being brought up with single parents? God designed the family with a Father and Mother. Seeking pleasure rather than righteousness responsibility has disrupted the system God designed and society is decaying as a result.

A nation cannot survive based on greed and selfish desire. Yes, I say, righteousness is worth it!

## PRAYING LIKE DAVID

By Al Diestlekamp

If like me you sometimes find yourself becoming dissatisfied with your personal prayers to God and want to do something about it, it would be good to go to some of the Psalms of David. Many of the Psalms are actually prayers that can be adapted to fit our own life situations. Such is the case with Psalm 143.

**1. *Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness.***

There are at least twelve New Testament passages which assure us that God hears and answers prayer (i.e., **1 John 5:14-15**). Why then do we ask God for what He has already promised? It's not because we don't believe God will keep His promise. It's like a child asking his parents to protect him even though they have assured him time and again that they are there for him. Or it's like a wife asking her husband if he still loves her even though he vowed to do so "till death they do part."

**2. *Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous.***

This is a confession of fault from "a man after God's own heart" (**1 Samuel 13:14**). Like David, we must acknowledge that none of us is able to prevail in front of a just judge. As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one*" (**Romans 3:10**). It is true that one day we will all have to stand before God in judgment (**Hebrews 9:27**); but like David, I don't seek justice; I seek mercy.

**3. *For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead.***

**4. *Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.***

This was likely a time when David was in exile, hiding from King Saul. He felt as if he had been crushed. He was forced to dwell in "darkness" of caves that are more suited as graves. He felt overwhelmed!

How blessed we are by the lack of physical persecution. Not all Christians in the world can say this. But keep in mind that we, too, have no assurance that such persecution will not come to us in future days. Are we prepared?

**5. *I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.***

**6. *I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land.***

Maybe David longed for the "good old days" when he

was lauded as a hero in Israel. You know, when he stood before a giant and said, "*I come to you in the name of the Lord...*" (**see 1 Sam. 17:45-47**); or when women danced in the streets, singing, "*Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands*" (**1 Sam. 18:7**). Like David, we need to thirst for God's help and "*spread out our hands*" in prayer.

**7. *Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.***

**8. *Cause me to hear Your loving kindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.***

When David felt his own spirit failing, he called on God not to hide His face from him. He feared an untimely death and called on God's loving kindness to take him through the night. He expressed trust in the Lord and asked to know which way to walk. No matter the circumstances, we need to trust the Lord and ask for guidance in the way we walk.

**9. *Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; In You I take shelter.***

**10. *Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.***

David depended on God as his shelter and asked to be "*led*" in the right way. King Saul was not David's only enemy. Like us, he had a much more formidable enemy in the person of Satan. Even if one is able to escape his human enemies by his own wit and might, he would be foolish to think he can defeat Satan by himself.

It is imperative to recognize who our real enemy is. Our only hope in defeating him is to seek God's help. We might take "*shelter*" in God and rely on Him to lead us in uprightness.

**11. *Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.***

**12. *In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.***

David had confidence that God in His mercy would save him from his enemies because he served God. For us, God has put an end to the force of our enemy through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Consider David's words in other Psalms:

### **Psalms 25**

**4. *Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths.***

**5. *Lead me in your truth and teach me, for You are God of my salvation.***

## **Psalms 86**

**11. Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth.**

God will judge the world in justice, but He offers mercy to all who serve Him. Let us serve God by being "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (**James 1:22**).

**Taken from the Market Street Messenger ~via Think On These Things; Corland, Illinois**

## **Attendance**

**By Tom Moore**

Attending worship services faithfully is of the utmost importance. Many strong Christians have become weak, and many weak Christians have totally fallen away, because at some point they began to miss worship services and Bible study on a regular basis. A Christian's attendance of services has been rightfully declared by many, as a thermometer indicating one's fervor for the Lord. One cannot truthfully say he is a faithful child of God if he does not attend worship services regularly. Consider now the following reasons why we must attend worship services faithfully.

The Hebrew writer penned the following passage giving us several reasons for not forsaking the assembly of the saints. *"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh"* (**Hebrews 10:24-25**). Our assembling together for worship services stimulates the brethren to love and good works, and exhorts and encourages us to greater Christian enthusiasm. It is important, because of the trials, temptation and heartaches we face each week as Christians, to assemble together at each opportunity so that we might be stimulated and encouraged, and to do the same for others. It is reassuring to be around those of *"like precious faith"* (**2 Pet. 1:1**). We all need encouragement, but we must attend worship services and Bible study to receive this precious privilege.

Another reason we should attend worship services and Bible study faithfully is seen in **Hebrews 10:25** – it is a command of God. Jesus said, *"If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments"* (**John 14:15**). Furthermore, we also need to remember, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous"* (**1 John 5:3**). The Lord informs us that we must assemble at every opportunity with the saints. If this were the only reason for attending worship regularly – it would be enough. If you really love the Lord you will keep His commandments.

Still another reason we should attend worship services regularly is that we must be a good example to others. Peter declared, *"For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps"* (**1 Pet. 2:21**). Jesus left us innumerable examples of how we should live. One of these examples is that He kept the Law of Moses perfectly, which included attending all of the different feasts and special days of the Jewish religion. We, too, learning from the example of Jesus, should regularly attend all of the worship services as well as all other gathering for the purpose of study and edification. We should do this to please God, but also to set good examples for others. Paul said that we are to be *"an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (**1 Tim. 4:12**). What kind of example do you think we set for the non-believer by our apathetic attendance, or for the weak Christian? Not a good one I assure you.

Would one consider a car faithful if it only starts every other time? Would you consider you spouse faithful if she cheated on your marriage once a month? Of course not! Then what makes us think that we can be faithful Christians if we are not attending worship services regularly? It is vital that we are faithful in attendance – our eternal destiny is hanging in the balances. We are not condemning those who are ill at home, or having to care for a sick loved one – we speak to those who have no reason for not coming other than being deficient in concern for spiritual matters. We love you and hope to see you in our next scheduled meeting time.

## **A FLAWED COMPARISON**

Trying to compare drinking alcohol to other "bad habits" just doesn't work unless we are actually talking about drugs that significantly alter sobriety and the ability to make sound judgments. There are plenty of those types of drugs, but comparing drinking to eating donuts is ludicrous. We aren't just talking here about long term health. We are talking about the immediate effects that destroy one's ability to think. If eating donuts does that to you, then by all means quit eating them. But I have yet to meet the person who destroyed a family or killed someone in a car wreck over losing one's mind on donuts. If that kind of comparison is the justification for drinking today; then sell it elsewhere.

**by Doy Moyer Taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition**

**Prov. 20:1** *Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; And whosoever erreth thereby is not wise.*

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

**Check out the following websites:**

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

## NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL, GRANT CLOTHIER, JAN PATRICK AND STEVE WIMP.

MARY CZIRR IS UNDER HOSPICE CARE.

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE: SUNDAY MORNING: THE BOOK OF ACTS - BYRON TAYLOR AND WEDNESDAY EVENING: THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: THE ONE TRUE CHURCH



## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10