

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



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

**January  
13  
2019**

## His Righteousness is Good for Us

Jim Stauffer

It is often best for us to sacrifice what we love to gain what we need. Look at the example of this young man, *"And someone came to Him and said, 'Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?' And He said to him, 'Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' Then he \*said to Him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' The young man \*said to Him, 'All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?' Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property." (Matthew 19:16–22)*

This young man sought to do a good thing to inherit eternal life. He was blessed abundantly and sought to sustain that abundance while receiving credit for goodness with the eternal life he sought. Jesus, however, could see through his superficial commitment to righteousness, that is doing the right thing, and surprised him with His instruction. You see, the Lord recognized the barrier between this man and that which is truly good was his wealth. He essentially challenged him by testing his true desire for righteousness.

God has, as Scripture tells us, planned the redemption of man from before the foundations of the world (**Eph. 1**). His plan was to bless all nations of the earth with the seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ (**Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18; Gal. 3:16**). He carried it out through the son of promise Isaac by way of his son Jacob. To these descendants of Abraham, he brought the covenant referred to in Scripture as the Law of Moses. The laws of this covenant were to guide the children of Israel (Jacob) to be righteous in deed and to therefore be

found acceptable in the sight of God (**Deut. 4:12,13; 10:12,13**). Being acceptable to God, then is the good thing for which they and we must strive.

The intent of God's covenant then and the one we have now was to change the heart of man from selfishness to the kind of sacrificial love God would demonstrate for all creation. It was then and is now that selfishness is at the very heart of sin itself. Why do we transgress God's commands and commit acts of injustice and immorality? It is to please ourselves in some very selfish way. What sin can man commit that is not motivated by his selfish desire to bring satisfaction to himself? This obedience to His instruction then, He says is for our good (**Deut. 6:24,25**).

And so it is that God continued His message of the Law of Moses when He sent His Son to die for all men and provide the perfect sacrifice that could atone for sin (**Rom. 3:24-26; 1 Pet. 1:18,19**). That message being we must pursue what is right. Doing right things is actually righteousness. Our problem is we are not consistently perfect in doing right things. We become selfish at times and do those things that please us rather than are the just and right thing to do at the time. But we are reminded by David that God will protect and watch over the man who unselfishly practices justice in the sight of men (**Psa. 41:1,2**). We see then, it is good for man to follow God's command to practice justice/righteousness.

But since we do not practice justice perfectly we need another part of His covenant with us to ensure our goodness. That is the forgiveness of our sins. That is the reason Jesus died for us (**John 8:24; Acts 2:38**). Isaiah tells us our sins have separated us from God (**Isa. 59:1,2**). It is because of that condition we need Jesus' blood to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and bring a reconciliation with God (**Rom. 5:8-10**). Again, we see that the tenets of God's covenant with man are good for him.

Once we truly understand what is good, we can seek it. We can pursue the stipulations of our covenant

with God and He will by His grace grant righteousness to us as He has promised to the faithful. And that, after all is what faithfulness is. It is seeking to do His Will which we recognize is for our ultimate good.

It will not always be what feels good at the time, but it will be good for us in the end. We, as faithful servants, can hear Him say, ..... *'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'* (Matthew 25:21)

## WE NEED INSTRUCTION

*"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed"* (1 Timothy 4:6). Paul told Timothy that God's word is needful and helpful in all aspects of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17). When we talk about doctrine, we emphasize great Bible truths that explain God's actions and motivations for our benefit; when we turn to the practice of the Bible, we emphasize the "things" we need to do as we serve God. This often is a false dichotomy. Who would deny the practical nature of either doctrine or the practical application of what God's word says? Still, we see in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy that application is important. Timothy's target audience, the Ephesians, needed instruction. They needed to apply God's word in everyday living; so do we. And especially in the difficult latter times, Timothy's work was greatly needed.

Timothy was working with "brethren." As Christians, we come from the same spiritual womb; we are part of the same spiritual family; we are the church, God's household. Timothy was to be a good minister; he was to be, as all Christians are, a servant. While the words for deacon (minister, servant) may be the same, not all Christians are deacons as per the qualifications in chapter three; yet, all Christians are supposed to serve faithfully. We need to be nourished by the gospel. This was the good doctrine that Timothy learned from his youth. Profane teachings, fables, and silly superstitions do not promote spiritual health. We need to exercise our godliness; increasing our spiritual strength and devotion to God profits us; this kind of exercise pays rich dividends. This is a faithful, true, trustworthy saying.

Paul reminds Timothy that working in the kingdom would not be easy. *"For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe"* (1 Timothy 4:10). Paul says: This is our purpose; this is the reason we are here; we are here to serve Christ, even to the point of fatigue. Our God is alive and we must be alive to Him and His work.

*"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in*

*faith, in purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12). Were people in Ephesus looking down on Timothy because of his youth? Possibly. Was Timothy hindered by a spirit of timidity and reluctance in his work of teaching and preaching? Possibly (2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11). We should remember, though, **Hebrews 13:23**: *"Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly."* Whatever this means, it looks as if Timothy kept right on in his work of instructing God's people, and no doubt many others. His love, his faith, his purity matched God's word. Yet, as a young man, he had to be careful about his example (2 Timothy 2:22).

And so, Paul says: *"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."* Keep on, don't give up, don't be discouraged. The Ephesians, Paul, Timothy, you and I, yea, all need instruction from God. Remember: You and I have God's word readily available to us. What are we doing with it? Do we really want to hear God's instructions?

**Randy Harshbarger**

## MANY YET ONE

How much is 1 + 1? Of course, everybody knows it is 2. But, God said of the husband and wife that two shall become one. So, according to God's math one plus one equals one. How much is many plus one? According to God's math many plus one still equals one. *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another"* (Rom. 12:4-5).

This is not the only occasion Paul uses such a comparison. He develops this concept extensively in many of his letters. He also exclusively used a unique illustration to get his audience's attention; the human body. In **Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians** he wrote more than 30 times to illustrate how the church is to function. Approximately half the time he used the word, he was referring to the human body with its many parts and members. In the other half, he applied the term to the church – the body of Christ.

Paul's most extensive use of the analogy of the human body is in **1 Corinthians**. The reason is clear. They were immature and carnal. He made his point in such a way they could not miss it. The body is not one member but many. There is an interrelationship between all parts (1 Cor. 12:14-26). There was no way even the most carnal and immature Christian could miss his point. Paul is trying to tell us that no individual Christian can function effectively by himself.



Consider, did you ever have a speck of dust in your eye? Instinctively you rub your eye with your finger. There is no debating with the finger, no arguing, no criticizing, no stabbing, no being short or curt. It is a natural response to reach up and pull the lid of the eye to clear the dust. But without the hand, including the finger, the irritant would remain. Just as it is natural for the many body parts to function with one another harmoniously, and each is important to the whole, so it is with the body of Christ. All that we are exhorted to do or commanded to do with one another is a natural response. We can't say, "I don't need you." We each need each other. When lifting we are to use our legs. Bending at the waist to lift a heavy box seems natural, but it can be damaging to your lower back. However, if you combine arms, legs and back properly, it is easier. The heavy box is lifted best when each part functions as it should. For the hand to think the leg is not needed is absurd. Such suggests a reliance on one another. Further, we must see there is value in one another. Paul teaches this by first laying out the complimentary relationship between two ideas that often seem at odds with each other (**Romans 12: 4-5**). We are to be one but we are different. Once again, to illustrate Paul uses the human body. The body has many parts: feet, hands, legs, arms, torso, and head. Different parts with different functions yet all have a single purpose. All the parts work together for a common goal. So it is with the Lord's people. We are different in our talents and gifts but we work for one common goal. We function interdependently rather than independently. Being one in Christ makes us all fellow members. As such a member, I belong to all others and vice versa. I not only serve the Lord I serve all those in relationship with Him. We are mutually dependent on one another. The existence of one is necessary to the usefulness of others. Paul regarded himself as just one member and each his brother. He has his apostleship, others have their function. He must not think himself more highly than others (**Romans 12: 3**).

Moreover, even though each has a different job we must not think we are worth nothing. Also, don't lightly esteem others. All are necessary. We are members of one another with respect to mutual interests and helpfulness. We depend on one another for nourishment and assistance. Whatever the gifts the Lord has given me, we serve Him. In so doing we serve all in relationship to Him, as well as they serve us. We must never forget who we really are. Paul never did. When he looks at the Lord who gave him his apostleship he is humbled. When he looks at fellow apostles, he is ashamed (**1 Cor. 15:8**).

Finally, we must maintain sanity and balance with whatever the Lord has given us. No one is to exceed his estimate he must place upon himself. None of us can do everything or be everything. For Moses there was Aaron. For David there was Jonathan. For Paul there

was Timothy. Even Jesus chose not to operate by Himself. He called twelve men to walk with Him. We are inextricably bound to each other.

***By Rickie Jenkins; rickiej08@gmail.com***

*None of us is as good as all of us.*

***Ray Kroc***

## **Hidden in my Heart (2)**

Last week I challenged you to hide more of God's word in your heart this year and promised to give you a few helpful hints toward that end. Well, here we go:

1. Pick a good Bible. Don't go with "the latest and the greatest"! Most of these newer Bibles, regardless of who has translated the text or compiled the so-called references seem more to be interested in making dollars than they are in making disciples. Friend, it's the Word of God, which has been complete for right at 2,000 years, not some passing newspaper article which is here today and gone tomorrow. (That most definitely includes this article as well!) God's Word is eternal and should not read like yesterday's newspaper! Believe it or not the fact that it won't read like what you read every day helps you to commit it to your memory because it will stand out! Have you ever tried to memorize a sentence from yesterday's newspaper?
2. Start with short verses. When I was in preaching school we had to memorize some very long passages of the New Testament, such as **Acts 22:1-30** or **Hebrews 9:14-28**. I was much younger then but we still began with shorter verses. This is important because it gives you a sense of accomplishment, which is encouraging and you're going to need all the encouragement you can get!
3. Get a sense of WHY the verse is important enough to memorize. Every word of God is important but some are just drastically more important than others. Knowing WHY stimulates your mental powers.
4. Here is a beginning list of verses to commit to memory: **Genesis 1:1,2; Psalm 23:1; John 1:1&2; John 3:36; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 25; Acts 16:31; Proverbs 1:7; 3:5,6; Matthew 24:35; 5:3-16** one verse at a time.

***Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.***

*"I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."*  
**(Psalm 40:8)**

*"The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip."*  
**(Psalm 37:31)**

*Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Arao Uchaio, Francisco Vascob in Mozambique.*

## **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***

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**Brandon Jimison**

**Casey Dent**

**Joe Hurd**

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK (WHO HAS A BROKEN FOOT), STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, AND GEORGE ROOT.

**BIBLE CLASSES** SUNDAY MORNING:  
THE PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING:  
HEAVEN AND HELL  
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: CAN A SAINT BE A  
SINNER?

SPRING GOSPEL MEETING:  
MAY 19-22  
ROGER SHOUSE



## ***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