

Religious But Not Righteous

Introduction

2 Timothy 3:1-9

1. Discuss 2 Timothy 3:5

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2. The word “righteous” means the state of being right.

Inconsistency in Righteousness

1. As the new year begins I want to bring to our mind how at times we may be guilty of being inconsistent in our practice.

A. The purpose of this lesson is to make us mindful of these things in hope that we will make an honest, sincere effort to correct our shortcomings.

2. Religious inconsistency involves but is not limited to the following:

A. Zeal without knowledge.

Romans 10:1-3 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

1) We can see this in Apollos.

Acts 18:24-26 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

B. Knowledge without Zeal

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

1) Instead we should have a knowledge of Jesus and a zeal to put it into practice.

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Romans 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

C. Opposing divorce, but not working toward a happy home.

Matthew 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

- 1) People are quick to oppose divorce but what are we doing to promote a home that is aimed as being pleasing to God?**

Colossians 3:18-19 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

Philippians 2:3-5 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

D. Church membership, but a lack of dedication.

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 9:26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

- 1) We recognize the importance of joining the church but then some are failing miserably in letting their light shine in the community!**

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

E. Opposing the instrument of music, but refusing to sing.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

F. Opposing Fund Raisers, but failing to give of our means.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

1) Then when we do fulfill our duty of giving, we don't do it with the right kind of heart to God.

2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

G. Conviction of what is right, yet making no effort to teach it!

Acts 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

H. Attending once a week, but not all services

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1) Or we may be attending, but without pleasure.

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Conclusion

1. Let's go into this new year making sure that we are both religious and righteous before God and man.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

2. Brethren remember, the most righteous individuals before God will barely be saved, so what would be your condition?

1 Peter 4:18 Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

3. If we practice our religion before God the way that He has instructed us, then we can have the attitude of Paul:

2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have *loved His appearing*.

