

The Value of Righteous Living

Introduction:

1. **Some don't obey because they think of it in the negative sense:**
 - A. **"Look what I have to give up", "It's hard", "I can't have fun"**
2. **Solomon, to whom God gave wisdom said:**

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

- A. **Solomon learned the value of righteous living.**
 - B. **He came to realize that only in the God of heaven can a man find real significance and lasting satisfaction.**
 - C. **This is the legacy that Solomon wished to leave behind to subsequent generations who earnestly search for life's highest good.**
3. **Solomon's conclusion was:**

Ecclesiastes 12:13....fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.

What Is Righteousness?

1. **The word righteousness is defined as: “the character or quality of being right or just”**
 - A. **W.E. Vine says: “Righteousness embraces the idea of the right knowledge in the mind, leading to the right action in life.”**
 - 1) **Therefore we learn that righteousness is doing RIGHT and refers to the state of one who is such as he ought to be before God and man.**

2. **We CAN know what is right. Paul taught:**

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

A. **Peter also taught:**

Acts 10:35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

B. **David said: Psalms 119:10-18**

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.

Psalm 119:172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your **commandments are righteousness.**

The Value of Righteous Living to Noah

- 1. Noah was said to be “a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen 6:9).**
 - A. Noah’s conduct amidst wickedness (Gen 6:5), caused him to find “grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen 6:8).**
 - B. Noah’s righteousness is demonstrated in the fact that he did “all that God commanded him” (Gen 6:22).**
- 2. While every living substance was destroyed upon the face of the ground, righteous Noah and his family were saved (1 Pet 3:20).**
 - A. How valuable is righteousness?**
 - 1) Those who were saved could tell us!**

The Value of Righteous Living to Abraham

1. The scripture says:

James 2:23"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

- **John 15:14: "Friend" - IF you do what is commanded!**
- A. **We turn to this text of scripture to prove that man is not justified by faith only. Abraham exhibited works and it was by his works that his faith was made perfect.**
James 2:21-22

2. Abraham's supreme test of righteousness came during his mature life in his willingness to offer up Isaac, his only son, whom he loved passionately and in whom all his expectations centered (Gen 22:1-10).

- **What is Faith? > Hebrews 11:1**
- **How do we get Faith > Romans 10:17**

Hebrews 11:17-18 **By faith** Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

- A. **Righteousness is not always easy. But through Abraham's dedicated faith in God, the Savior came.**

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, **"And to your Seed,"** who is Christ.

The Value of Righteous Living to the City of Sodom

1. This value can be seen when we consider that ten righteous souls would have delivered the ancient city of Sodom (Gen 18:23-32).

- **Abraham: 50 - 45 - 40 - 30 - 20 - 10 > 2 Peter 3:9**

A. Since less than 10 righteous people could be counted, two angels went to Sodom to visit and warn Lot of the impending destruction (Gen 19:1ff). Then it said:

Genesis 19:24....the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities....

2. Sodom's wickedness and moral depravity even became proverbial:

Romans 9:29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah."

A. Righteous living would have spared the now "lost" city of Sodom!

1) I hope we are beginning to understand that salvation will **only be awarded to the righteous!**

The Value of Righteous Living to Israel of Old

1. Righteousness had the power to strengthen and exalt the nation of Israel.

A. As long as Israel was righteous, no power could overthrow them, and other nations would say:

Deuteronomy 4:6Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

B. God watched over Israel and assured those living righteously of His blessing.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: "the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today;"and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

2. Righteousness was the basis of God's dealing with other nations (Jer 18:1-10).

A. Where are the ancient nations today? Where are the great empires of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia?

1) Their unrighteousness worked their ruin!

The Value of Righteous Living Today

1. As demonstrated in the past, righteous living is still of great value. The value of righteousness today is seen in the fact that:

A. Righteousness gives us access to God.

1) When we do right, living according to the Gospel of Christ, God's eyes are over us; his ears are open to our prayers.

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Proverbs 15:9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness.

B. Righteousness bears good fruit.

Matthew 7:17-20

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

Revelation 22:14

C. Righteous living is not only profitable to us, but to others.

1) We can ONLY win others to Christ through righteous living. We can only build up others through righteous living!

2) Jesus taught His disciples:

Matthew 5:13-14 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:16

D. Only righteousness will be crowned.

- 1) **Before the crown of righteousness could be awarded to Paul he had to first do something. What was that?**

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have **kept the faith**. 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.

- 2) **The righteous can truly look forward to heaven!**

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

IF we love doing right — then we will LOVE heaven!

Conclusion

1. **Are you numbered among God's righteous?**
2. **Righteous living amidst wickedness, is the only thing that will mean anything eternally!**
 - A. **We will either die the death of the righteous or the death of the wicked.**

Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

3. **The choice is ours. For our sake and the sake of all future generations, we must DO what the Bible says and BE what it makes us.**
 - A. **LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY - While we have been given the chance!**

