

**FOUR BASIC LESSONS**

**FOR**

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

**AND MATURITY**

**BY**

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# **WALKING IN THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Mathew 7:13-14, 18-23

## **THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- A. The gate is narrow
- B. It is hard
- C. It leads to life
- D. Few people enter in

## **THE PRINCIPLES RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMANDS**

### **1. THE DON'TS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- a. Hate
- b. Despise
- c. Discriminate
- d. Bear grudge
- e. Covet
- f. Jealous
- g. Join evil association
- h. Gossip
- i. Blackmail
- j. Rebel
- k. Sin
- l. Plan evil
- m. Suppress
- n. Compromise

## **2. THE DOs OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- a. Love . loving like Christ
- b. Accommodate
- c. Content
- d. Obey
- e. Absolute forgiveness
- f. Submissiveness
- g. Self dicipline
- h. Separate
- i. Sincerity
- j. Self denial
- k. Forebearing ( long suffering)
- l. Humility
- m. Moral soundness
- n. Following the master's principle
- o. Surrendering all
- p. Self sacrifice
- q. Liberal
- r. Good
- s. Relate well, etc.

## **THE BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- A. Devine protection (Ps 35:1-8)
- B. Devine security (Ps 35:1-8)
- C. God's inheritance
- D. Candidateship of the kingdom
- E. Prosperity

## **THE CHRISTIANS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- A. Righteousness should be a lifestyle
  - 1. It should dominate our character
  - 2. It should dominate our attitude
  - 3. It should dominate our behaviour
  
- B. It should be a costly garment

# HIGHER RIGHTEOUSNESS

*You are like the salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It becomes worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample over it. You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your father in heaven. I tell you, then, that you will be able to enter the kingdom of heaven only if you are more faithful than the teacher of the law and the Pharisees in doing what God requires+Matt. 5:13-14, 16,20 (GNB)*

From the dispensation of innocence to this present dispensation, righteousness had been the only passport to fellowship with God. Right from Genesis to revelation, a very high demand had been placed on it. This is the second stage of our Christian race and only door to practical holiness. Hence there is need for this teaching and more emphasis on it.

## THE TEACHING OF CHRIST AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

### A. Teaching about the Law . Matt.5:17-19; Deut. 5:6-20

#### 1. Religious Law . Deut. 5:6-15

- a. Polytheism Ex. 20 :1
- b. Idolatry . Ex. 20:4-6
- c. Profanity . Ex. 20:7
- d. Sabbath breaking . Ex. 20:20

#### 2. Human right . Deut. 5:16, 21

- a. Parental dishonor . Ex. 20:12

- b. Adultery - Ex. 20:14
  - c. Covetousness - Ex. 20:17
3. Civil Law . Deut. 5:17-20
    - a. Murder - Ex. 20:13
    - b. Larceny (stealing) - Ex. 20:15
    - c. Perjury (bearing false witness) - Ex. 20:15

Righteousness demands total obedience to the law at all levels and all stages

B. Teaching about anger: Righteousness demands

1. Peace with one another
2. Good relationship - Matt.5:21-26
3. Self control - Matt.5:21-26

C. Teaching about Adultery: Righteousness demands integrity (moral soundness)Matt. 5: 27-30

D. Teaching about Divorce . Matt. 5:31-32: Righteousness demands

1. Steadiness in marriage
2. Total and sacrificial love for one another in matrimonial home.  
1Cor 13:1
3. Absolute endurance for one another in the midst of odds situations and circumstances

E. Teaching about vows . Matt. 5:33-37: Righteousness demands absolute sincerity.

1. Keeping promises . Eccl. 5:1-6; Matt. 5: 33-37

2. Being a man of one word . Ex. 5:7
3. Being temperate in words . Matt. 5:34b-37 (do not swear at all)

F. Teaching about revenge Matt. 5:38-42: Righteousness demands total forgiveness, total forgetfulness, and total surrendering of everything.

1. No retaliation . Matt. 5:39
2. Do more than required . Matt. 5:40-41 (go extra mile)
3. Be kind and generous . Matt. 5:42

G. Teaching about Enemies - Matt. 5:43-44: Righteousness demands total love for enemies

1. Pray for them
2. Seek for their well being (bless them)
3. Feed them when necessary
4. Do good to them that hate you
5. We should be perfect

## **JESUS CHRIST: A MODEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

A. When one of the disciples wanted to defend him before the enemies during his arrest.

1. He commanded him to put back his sword . Matt. 26:51
2. He picked the piece of the cut off ear and put back. Lk. 22:50-51

B. While on the cross, He interceded for those who tortured and crucified him . Lk.m23:33-34

## THE EARLY DISCIPLES AFTER PENTECOST

- A. The impact of their righteousness were felt everywhere.
  - 1. The Lord was with them . Acts 11:20-21
  - 2. They shook their generation
  - 3. Their opposers were afraid of them.
- B. They were call Christian at Antioch

## CHALLENGE

Who are we today?

- A. To have good fruit, you must have a healthy tree; if you have a poor tree, you will have a bad fruit. A tree is known by the type of tree its bears.
- B. A good person brings good things out of treasures of good thing; A bad person brings bad things out of treasures of bad thing
- C. You can be sure that on the judgment day everyone will have e to give account of every useless words he has spoken
- D. Your words will be used to judge you . to decler you either innocent or guilty . Matt. 12:35-37(GNB)

# THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Roman 6:15-23; II Cor. 9:10; Gal 5:22-26; Phil 1:9-11

Fruit bearing is one of the characteristics of living things and mark of maturity. It is a very high demand and commission from Christ. You did not choose me; I choose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, the kind of fruit that endures+Jn 15:16 (GNB)

Fruit is a mark of **identification** and **differentiation**

Be on your guard against false prophets; You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and bear false fruits, but a poor tree bear bad fruit. A healthy tree can not bear bad fruit, and a poor tree can not bear good fruit+Mathew 7:15-18 (GNB)

## THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS DEFINED AND ILLUSTRATED

- A. Those things that distinguish the righteous from the unrighteous . ps. 1:1-2
- B. Those things that prove and confirm the maturity of believer in Christ
- C. Those qualities that gives a person access to the sacred things of God
- D. Those marks that distinguish a disciple of Christ from the pharisees and the scribes of this generation
- E. The beauty of salvation
- F. The quality that gives a person a good standing in the presence of God .  
Mathew 25:31-40

## **THE ANALYSIS OF THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – PHIL 1:11**

A. The Agape love . 1 Cor. 13:1-8a; Rom. 1:8-10

1. Patience
2. Not jealous or conceited
3. Humbled, no proud
4. Not ill-mannered
5. Not ego-centric (not selfish)
6. Not irritable
7. Not keep a record of wrongs
8. Not happy with evil, but
9. Happy with the truth
10. Never gives up
11. Its faith, hope and patience never fails
12. It is eternal
13. It is sincere (Rom 12:9-10)

B. ABSOLUTE SACRIFICE

1. Self
2. Pleasure
3. Substances

C. Total obedience . both horizontal and vertical

1. To man
2. To God

D. Practical humility . Rom 12:16

E. Integrity

F. Temperance

the practice of controlling your behaviour, the amount of food you eat. So that it is always reasonable+- Hornby

G. Patience (long suffering)

H. Endurance the ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without complaining +- (Hornby)

I. Faithfulness

1. In words

2. In action

J. Generosity

1. The poor Eccl 11:1-6

2. The physically challenged

3. The widows and orphans

4. The strangers Rom 12:13

5. The ministers

6. Your enemies . Rom 12:14-15, Matt 5:43-48

7. Your Creator . Rom 12:11

K. Absolute forgiveness - Matt. 6:14-15; Matt 18:21-27

1. Forgive

2. Forget

L. Peace

M. The fear of God ( hallowing his name) - Matt. 6

- N. Self denial
- O. Contentment
- P. Goodness
- Q. Kindness
- R. Reconciliation . Matt. 5:23-26

## **THE NECESSITY FOR THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- A. For the purpose of divine recognition . Matt. 7:21-23
- B. It is a commission from Christ . Jn 15:16
- C. For entrance to the kingdom of heaven . Matt. 5:20
- D. As a proof of discipleship Jn 15:8
- E. It is the revelation of the glory of God - Jn 15:8
- F. It is the divine VISA to the Kingdom of Heaven

## **THE TRAGIDY OF UNFAITHFULNESS**

- A. It will be cut down and thrown into fire . Matt. 7:19
- B. Sent off to eternal punishment Matt. 25:44-46

Dearly beloved, we were saved for a purpose which must be accomplished. Every one of us must realize this purpose. Like the early disciples, we were and are commissioned by Christ