



THEME: THE BENEFITS OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Bible Study 1: The Lord is Righteous in ALL His ways!!

INTRODUCTION As a Christian who lives in a fallen world there are times when things can be difficult or hard within our lives. We have the promise of Jesus that declares He is with us even to the very end of the age and that we have an inheritance in Him. Nevertheless there are times of challenge and adversity for most of us and it is in these moments that our faith and trust in Jesus is truly tested. For some Christians this results in anger expressed to the LORD and a challenge to His fairness and love.

DISCUSS – Why do you think that there is suffering and hardship in the world even for Christians?
What reasons do you think Christian blame God for the situations they find themselves in ?
How do you think we should respond to God when things get tough?

TEACHING SLOT – What is Righteousness?.....

When we look at the Word of God we see that time and time again it declares both righteousness of God and the call of God's people to live righteous lives. Scripture reveals to us that much of the promises, the intimacy, the power of God that is promised in Jesus is governed by how much we live in the righteousness that we have received by faith in Jesus.

In Scripture the idea of righteousness is found in the idea of a court of law. It is focused on the fact that we are declared in the right..... Or in a right standing before the judge, in Christian terms, not because of what we have done but because of Jesus. As God's people who have been made right by Jesus and justified by faith in Him. We are then called to live in this rightness by living daily in a right relationship with God and one another....

It is in the context of a righteous life that the Lord promises certain benefits and blessings to His people. Much of God's provision and anointing bound to the response that we make in this area to live a righteous life before God.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS-

TEACHING SLOT – The Process

1) There is a complete logic and progression in the way righteousness is made manifest in our relationship with God:-
The Lord Almighty is Righteous in ALL His ways and actions towards His creation.

2) Through Jesus He has established a rightness with Himself by FAITH.....

3) As we receive this right standing into our lives.....The Lord declares the same righteousness that we see in Him, in His Words, Actions and Character is the same righteousness that we should live in and by through the power of His Holy Spirit. This is part of having the Lordship of Jesus over our lives, our attitudes and our actions.

DISCUSS – Do you think it is hard to cultivate a righteous life? Why? / why not?
How do you think God helps us cultivate this righteousness?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:- Psalm 145

TEACHING SLOT – The Lord is Righteous

In Psalm 145 we discover something of the nature and the actions of God. Almost every word for verbal praise and adoration is used to describe God's nature and actions towards His people. What is declared here is that the Lord is a Great God who does great and mighty deeds. So mighty and powerful is His deeds that one generation will declare them to another.

These mighty and wonderful acts come out of the fact that the Lord of Lord's and the King of Kings is perfect in His nature and character. Scripture declares that God is morally pure, that there is no sin or evil within Him. His very nature is such that His action are always perfect, always just, always right. As a Holy God He will always act in complete faithfulness to His own goodness, faithfulness and love.

DISCUSS – Do you think that most Christian's believe these things about the nature and actions of God?
How do you think that this righteousness affects God's relationship with the world?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:- Psalm 145 v 8 – 9, 17, Deuteronomy 32 v 3– 4 , Psalm 89 v 13 – 14

TEACHING SLOT – The Righteousness of the Lord is our hope and encouragement.

What we see is that God's nature is essentially righteous..... His actions are essentially righteous and His rule over His creation is essentially righteous!! It should be a great encouragement to us as His people that the Lord is perfect in His love, perfect in His actions, perfect in ALL His ways towards us. The Lord's reign both over His creation and our lives is governed and founded on these things. Whatever we go through in this life, whatever tragedy befalls us, this revealed truth declares that the Lord is innocent in His dealings towards us... His actions are perfectly justified, perfectly right and perfectly good.

The teaching of God's word calls us to lay all on the altar and trust the Lord to do what is right in the different situations of our lives. When bad things happen it is not down to God, but down to the fallen world that we live in affecting our lives.

As we gaze on His goodness, His faithfulness, His nature we are challenged by the power of the Holy Spirit to cultivate these ways to. As we gaze on these deep things concerning the nature of God we are placed in a position before God where we can trust Him for what is to come because we know that all that He does is good.

As Scripture says :- **“The Lord is righteous in ALL His ways, gracious in ALL His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of all those who fear Him of all who love Him.....”**