



THEME: THE BENEFITS OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Bible Study 3: Walking in righteousness!!

INTRODUCTION When you look at life we see that things are not always what they appear to be. You plant a seed in the ground and do not see it again for weeks and even months and yet under the surface it is alive and growing.... You mix a cake and it looks a right sticky gooey mess yet add some heat to it and it becomes a light fluffy cake. This is also true often in our daily walk with Jesus. Sometimes we cannot always see what the Lord is doing in our lives right now or even what He will do in the future. Yet we have the wonderful promise that IF we live a life that is daily right with God then the Lord WILL bring into existence, within our lives many of the promises and blessings that we find within the Word of God.

DISCUSS – What do you think it means to live a righteous life before God? / how do we do it?

How do you think this living will impact your life for the good as you daily live for Jesus?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS– , Galatians 6 v 7, Deuteronomy 30 v 11 – 20

TEACHING SLOT – Made righteous to choose righteousness.

When we look at the call of the Lord Jesus for us to live a righteous life, we see that it is a call to live in the full freedom and victory that Jesus has established for our lives. Jesus has already made us righteous by the faith that we have in His death and resurrection. He had taken our place, paid our debt, experienced our punishment, so that NOW we stand in a RIGHT relationship with Him. Now the challenge laid before us is to daily choose to live in the fullness of this right relationship.

It is declared to us like this, by faith we have been made right with God, BUT by CHOICE this rightness grows, affects and blesses our everyday lives. As God has done right by us, we have a choice to do right by Him each day. There is a simple rule of cause and affect here, Live a Holy Life and God will reward you. Give your body over to sin and our heritage as children of God is removed from us.

This rightness with God is defined in Scripture as turning our back on sins like greed, unforgiveness, anger, selfishness, pride and lust and choosing to joyfully obey the Word and Spirit of the Lord in the choices we make and the lives we live.

It is this simple that by faith in Jesus we have been made right with God..... Now we must learn to walk in that rightness each day IF we are to live a Holy life.

DISCUSS – Do you think it is easy to live a righteous life? (give reason for answer)

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS– Galatians 5 v 16 – 26, Romans 6 v 10 – 23

TEACHING SLOT – Dead to sin – Alive to Christ

The testimony of Scripture concerning the life of the saved is that in Christ we have crucified the sinful nature with its lust and passions and we have by the Spirit of God been Born Again. The mindset of a Christian because of the new life and freedom we have in Christ is to count ourselves dead and unresponsive to wrong actions and attitudes and ALIVE and responsive to God in Christ Jesus. In fact what is clear who we choose to obey in our daily life will ultimately hold sway over us. If I choose to love Jesus and focus on living a life to please Him then He will be my master and Lord. If I choose to follow my own desires and the ways of the world then I will be a slave to sin and the world. As a result of this we are called to guard our hearts in Christ Jesus and cut out of our lives those things that tempt us into sin. Jesus Himself in Matthew 5 v 29 – 30 made it clear that if something tempts us to sin we must be both proactive and aggressive to cut out its influence on our lives. What is clear here is that righteousness has to be worked out in the everyday arena of life, and that means to NOT offer our bodies as instruments of sin.

DISCUSS – What do you think the cost will be if we take living a righteous life before God seriously?

What do we need to keep before our eyes so that we pay this cost gladly?

TEACHING SLOT – The Promises of God are given to those who live a righteous life.

In the context of us co-operating with the Holy Spirit and obeying the word of God we see that many of the blessings, promises and provision of God is given to those who live daily in the freedom, salvation and purity that He has given us through Jesus. The Lord Jesus has set us free NOT to sin. He has set us free to be right with God, to live right with God. It is in the context of this right living daily that God commands a blessing. READ Psalm 45 v 7, Proverbs 11 v 18, Samuel 26 v 23, 1 Peter 3 v 12. The question in all of this is “Do I sow in the flesh or sow in the Spirit in the way we live, the decision we make, the words we say?” For the Lord is looking for us to co-operate with the work He is doing in our lives. He is looking for us to out of love and devotion to actively cultivate, through obedience a clean and good life. The Lord is a Righteous God. He has made us to be righteous through the work of His Son Jesus. NOW to move in His power, His promises, His blessing and anointing we need to cultivate daily righteous lives before the Lord.

As we have seen the LORD has made us righteous. He has given us His word and Spirit to empower and lead us in righteousness. In this righteousness the promises of God meet with the dedication of a believer's heart. BUT how deep, how close, how much of the blessings and presence of God we see in our lives is down to the choices we make each day. For as Hosea 10 v 12 says “Sow for yourself righteousness, AND reap the fruit of unfailing love.”