About Righteousness

A Biblical Survey

By Pastor Tim Moen

God Loves Righteousness: Did you know that our Father God loves righteousness? He really does! We are told in **Psalm 33:5, "The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love."** Let's talk about this righteousness that our God loves so much.

What Righteousness Looks like: The Righteousness that God loves and looks for in us has a duel meaning: On one hand it is to be "in right standing with God" and on the other hand it means to be "in right living before God" i.e. living a life that depicts His good and moral traits.

Our Righteousness Ruined: Of course, the problem is that ever since sin entered our world, there is nobody besides Jesus who could be righteous in and of themselves. As we are told in **Romans 3:10, "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one."**

Righteousness Restored: But God, in His great love for us, gave us Jesus to be and restore in us the kind of righteousness that He loves and looks for from us. Just as we are told in - **1 Corinthians 1:30, "It is because of Him [Father God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is our righteousness, holiness and redemption."**

So, how does that work? Because Jesus became the atoning sacrifice for our sins, whereby His death, burial and resurrection we now have redemption the forgiveness of sins as we repent and put our faith in Him. Through Jesus we are now saved, reconciled to God, recipients of His New Life where He becomes the sole basis of our righteousness before God.

Thus, by putting our faith in Jesus we are in right standing with God, **Romans 3:22, "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."** (and Phil.3:9).

Also, by yielding our life in relationship to Jesus, by Him we start living right before God, as it tells us in **Philippians 1:11, "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ."**

What this means is that the righteousness that Jesus is in us has a transformative influence in our lives that changes our hearts, our attitudes and our behaviors to live the kind of righteous life that God looks for and loves.

Cooperating With Righteousness: Though our righteousness comes as a gift in Christ Jesus that requires simple faith in Him and a yielded relationship with Him, we are called to cooperate in some other ways with this righteousness that God loves and looks for in us. How?

First, we are to be sure that we are hungering and thirsting for this righteous to be ever growing in our life. We are promised in **Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."** How wonderful to be filled with His righteousness.

Second, we are to daily seek and prioritize the Lord's righteousness in our lives. **Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**

Third, by choosing to adjust ourselves, our attitudes and behavior daily to live out the Lord's righteousness. **Ephesians 4:23-24, "to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."**

Fourth, by confessing our sins to God every time we were unrighteous before God's eyes, as we are promised in **1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."**

God Rewards Righteousness: Because God loves righteousness and has restored it in our life through Jesus, He rewards righteousness as we are told in **Psalm 18:20, "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He recompensed me."** And in **Proverbs 11:18, "The wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a true reward."**

God rewards righteousness with His loving and powerful presence in our lives. As we are told in **Psalm 85:13, "Righteousness goes before Him and prepares the way for His steps."**

God rewards righteousness with His light and joy, **Psalm 97:11, "Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart."**

God rewards righteousness with life, prosperity and honor, **Proverbs 21:21, "Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor."**

Being rewarded for our righteousness will happen because God said it would. But being rewarded for it should not be our motive. After all, Jesus is the basis of all of our righteousness, both our right standing with God and our right living before God - He is the one who deserves all the rewards. Thus, what rewards we receive should be used for His glory.

Basically, our motive to be and to live righteously should be because our Father God loves it, and thus living it out is a wonderful way to show our love and appreciation to Him.