

Introduction

One day our doorbell rang, and when I went to the front door there was a young man and young woman, probably in their late teens. They were out campaigning for the upcoming elections. I began to ask them some questions about where their candidate stood on certain issues. They gave answers that indicated they did not believe in moral absolutes, which is very prevalent today. People have rejected God's moral standards, and they believe in relativism, which means they believe that ethical truths and standards depend on the individual and groups. Their candidate believed in abortion, and New Mexico, where we were living at that time, was the leading state for late-term abortions. I decided to go a different direction with these two young people, and I asked them if it was okay for a man to take a seven-year-old girl for a wife. They said that this was wrong. I told them that in the Middle East it was not considered wrong. I asked them who was right, the Muslims in the Middle East or them. The problem with their philosophy of morality is that everyone has a different opinion. Different cultures have different opinions about what is wrong. I told them that in some countries, people are put to death for homosexuality, and that in other places, it is culturally accepted. I told them that not everyone was right. I told them that we need a standard for what is right or wrong, and it is God's moral standard that matters. I said that one day we will all stand before God and give account for our lives, and His judgment will not be based on our standards, but His standard. I told them that I live by God's moral standards, and I will support candidates that uphold God's standards of righteousness. After that, the two young people left our house. I had given them a lot to think about, and probably much more than they had bargained for.

We live in a day where most people do not believe in moral absolutes. Situation ethics is prevalent, and it is up to the person at that particular moment to decide if something is right or wrong. We are in the midst of a series on Seek First the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Jesus did not tell us to seek first our own righteousness, but His righteousness. It does not matter if we think something is okay; we will be judged by God's standard of righteousness. This morning we are going to look at seeking God's righteousness. First, we are going to look at the righteousness of man. Second, we are going to look at the righteousness required by God. Third, we will look seeking God's righteousness by faith.

Seeking His Righteousness

1. The Righteousness of Man
2. The Righteousness Required by God
3. Seeking God's Righteousness by Faith

(Mt 6:33) "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

1. The Righteousness of Man

In Romans 10, Paul is addressing his kinsmen, the Jews, and he said, "for not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God." The Jews tried to establish their own righteousness, rather than seeking God's righteousness. The Jews are not the only ones that are guilty of this; people all over the world have been doing this for thousands of years. People today are still trying to establish their own righteousness. We have removed God's moral absolutes and His standards, and we go by what we think is okay and not okay. It is our own standard of righteousness.

(Ro 10:3) “For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”

The apostle Paul was raised as a Pharisee. His father was a Pharisee, and he studied under Gamaliel, a very strict teacher of the Law. In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he spoke about his righteousness. “If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.” According to the Pharisaical standards, Paul was blameless, and could be confident in the flesh. He had checked all the boxes and looked okay according to the flesh. But Paul counted all of it rubbish, and concluded that he would “be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.” Paul knew that His righteousness based on the Law fell short of what God requires.

(Php 3:4–9) “although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: {5} circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; {6} as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.... {8} More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, {9} and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,”

Isaiah said this about the righteousness of man. “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment...” Even though in the flesh, Paul may have had confidence, having lived blamelessly as a Pharisee, his righteous deeds were like a filthy garment. The righteousness of man is not the standard by which God judges; it is the righteousness of God by which we will be judged.

(Is 64:6) “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

Many people today fall into the same trap. They feel that if they go to church, that will help them get to heaven. If they put some money into the offering plate as it goes by, that this good work will help them get to heaven. If we live a good moral life, God will take notice and allow us into heaven. They are doing the things that they think will make them righteous. They are no different than the Jews who tried to establish their own righteousness.

Listen to what Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-9. It is “by grace that we are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” Our good works and our deeds of righteousness are as filthy rags before the Lord. We are not saved by our works.

(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; {9} not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

The Pharisees and scribes tried to establish their own righteousness, and they had God's word. Our culture today is far different, and God's word has largely been removed. There has been a heavy attack on absolutes, and a push towards situation ethics. There has been a move towards relativism. Seeking what is right to do is becoming more difficult to discern. Our culture tells us what is right to do may be different in this circumstance than the next time. It has been said, "Relativism is the single most important issue of our age."

What is relativism? According to Wikipedia, "Relativism is the concept that points of view have no absolute truth or validity, having only relative, subjective value according to differences in perception and consideration." In 1992 Pat Buchanan told America that we were in a culture war. All the media laughed, sneered, and barked at him. Today, everyone knows he was right, and the culture war is most essentially about the issue of relativism. Pat Buchanan was addressing the attack on our moral standards and absolutes. Our standard for moral behavior has been removed from our courts, schools, and nation. Without moral absolutes and standards, we become the judges of what is right and wrong.

We have a problem in America defining what is right and wrong. Is homosexuality okay? Is same-sex marriage okay? Is abortion okay? Is the morning after pill okay? How do we determine what is right or wrong? C.S. Lewis said that moral relativism eliminates the law. He was right. Without the law, there is no moral standard. There is no moral plumb line. We cannot define what is right and wrong, and anything and everything goes.

In our culture it has become very difficult for people to define what is right and what is wrong. It has become difficult for the world to even make a distinction between a man and a woman. People are being squeezed into this relativistic world view, and they do not see absolutes. As Christians, we are called to seek after His righteousness. For us, we must not be squeezed into the mold of the world. Instead, we are to be transformed by renewing our minds with the word of God. That is what Paul tells us in Romans 12:2.

(Ro 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Right in our own eyes

In a relativistic culture, we determine what is right and wrong, and every situation is different. We determine what is right in our own eyes. Let's take a look at what Scripture has to say about determining what is right by our own eyes. In Judges 17:6, God tells us that there was no king in those days, and every man did what was right in his own eyes. This was not a good time in Israel's history. If you look at what was going on, there was homosexuality, prostitution, rape, murder, idolatry, and many other sins going on. When people did what was right in their own eyes, they chose to do what was wrong. These verses stand out to me because we live in a day of relativism. The world has tried to remove the King of the kingdom of God so that everyone can do what is right in their own eyes. If you remove God and His moral standard, then men can do whatever is right in their own eyes.

(Jg 17:6) "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

When Karen and I were at TCU, there was a popular bumper sticker that said, “if it feels right, do it.” The bumper sticker did not say, is it lawful or legal. It did not say to get counsel. If it feels right to do to you, go ahead and do it. You are the ultimate authority to decide what is right and wrong. There is no King of Creation and no day of reckoning. You are free to do what is right in your own eyes. If it feels good to you, do it.

Listen to what Solomon wrote about doing what is right in your own eyes. He said that the way of a fool is right in his own eyes. Even though his actions are foolish to those around, he thinks it is right in his eyes. Solomon added that a wise man listens to counsel. He doesn't just do what is right in his own eyes.

(Pr 12:15) "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel."

In Proverbs 14:12, he wrote, “there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” He repeats the same proverb he gave two chapters earlier. Even though we think what we are doing is right, it can lead to death. We need to be very careful about doing what we think is right in our eyes.

(Pr 14:12) "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

In Proverbs 21:2, Solomon writes that every man's way is right in his own eyes. It is not just the fools who think they are right. All of us. You, me, all of us think we are right. Each of us think that our ways are right. Notice how he ends the verse, “but the Lord weighs the hearts.” Even though we think that our ways are right, there is going to be a day of reckoning. God will weigh the hearts. He will make a just decision. It is God who has a true scale of right and wrong and can weigh our hearts and our ways.

(Pr 21:2) "Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts."

Whatever we think is right or seems right does not necessarily match up with what is right in the Lord's eyes. Look at what Isaiah the prophet said. Our thoughts are not His thoughts. Our ways are not His ways. Therefore, if we go only by our thoughts, and our thoughts are right in our own eyes, we are in big trouble. We will not be able to seek His righteousness by doing what is right in our own eyes. Without a moral plumb line, both individuals and societies go astray.

(Isa 55:8-9) ""For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

2. The Righteousness Required by God

God is a holy God and sin cannot dwell in His presence. He tells us that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Our righteousness does not meet God's standard of righteousness.

(1 Co 6:9–11) “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, {10} nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. {11} Such were some of you; but you were

washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

When God created Adam, there was no sin in the world. Adam enjoyed perfect fellowship with God. God put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it, and He commanded Adam not to eat from the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day he eats from it he will surely die. Adam and Eve did eat from the knowledge of good and evil, and their eyes were opened, and they saw they were naked. They tried to hide from God’s presence. They died spiritually that day, and their lives became mortal, meaning that they would die physically. Their sin had made a separation between God and man.

(Ge 2:15–17) “Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. {16} The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; {17} but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

In Romans 5, Paul wrote that “through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.” He was referring to Adam, who brought sin into the world. In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, he wrote, “for since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” Adam’s sin brought sin to all men, and all men have sinned and been separated from God. Christ’s death and resurrection will bring life to those who are in Christ.

(Ro 5:12) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

(1 Co 15:21–22) “For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. {22} For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”

Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said this about the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” The Pharisees were sinners and were not without sin. Paul’s attempt at righteousness as a Pharisee looked good, but it was not going to be enough to enter the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of God requires a perfect righteousness. The righteousness of the Pharisees was an outward righteousness. They gave the appearance of being righteous, but it was only an appearance. God requires a righteous heart.

(Mt 5:20) "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

In Matthew 23, Jesus said the scribes and Pharisees were like whitewashed tombs. They appeared beautiful on the outside, but inside they were full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. They appeared righteous, but inwardly were full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Jesus said that our righteousness had to surpass the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Our righteousness has to be an inward righteousness.

(Mt 23:27-28) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. {28} "Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

God's righteous is a perfect righteousness. He is the light and in Him is no darkness. No sin can be in His presence. Our problem is that all of us have sinned. There is not a single person that has not sinned. In Romans 3:23, Paul wrote, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Some people think they have lived pretty good lives, especially when they compare their lives to others, but they have still sinned. In James 2:10, God tells us that whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, has become guilty of all. There are lots of "good" people who do lots of good things, but they have stumbled at one time or another, and are guilty of all.

(Ro 3:23) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

(Jas 2:10) "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all."

Unfortunately, the wages of sin is death. Even if we have done lots of good things, if we have sinned once in our lives, we are guilty of sin, and the wages of our sin is death. God is a holy God and the bar for entering into His kingdom is the righteousness of God. The good news is that God has offered us the righteousness of God through His Son, Jesus. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Ro 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3. Seeking His Righteousness

Since God requires perfect righteousness, and man's efforts at righteousness fall short, how do we get the righteousness of God? We get God's righteousness through faith in Christ. Jesus lived a perfect and holy life. Even though He was tempted in all things, He did not sin. Because of His sinless life, He was able to give His life as a sacrifice and pay for our sins. When He was on the cross, He stated, "It is finished." He had paid for our sins. On the third day He was resurrected from the dead. Just as He was raised from the dead, all who are in Christ will be raised up in new life.

(He 4:15) "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin."

(Jn 19:30) "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

In 2 Corinthians 5:21, God makes it very clear that He made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. How do we get that righteousness? We get that righteousness by faith. When we place our faith in Christ Jesus, it is credited to us as righteousness.

(2 Co 5:21) "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

In Genesis 15:6, Abraham believed God and it was credited or reckoned to him as righteousness.

(Ge 15:6) "Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."

In Romans 4, Paul explains the difference between works and faith. He said that if Abraham was justified by works, he would have something to boast about, but not before God. He quotes Genesis 15:6, saying, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness. When we place our faith in Christ, we are justified or declared righteous and innocent. Once we have come into a relationship with Christ by faith, we have the righteousness of God, and the Lord sees us as righteous. Therefore, when God sees us, He sees us as saints, or holy ones, and that is why he refers to believers as saints, not sinners.

(Ro 4:1–5) "What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? {2} For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. {3} For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." {4} Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. {5} But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,"

We are saints and positionally righteous, but that does not mean that we live like saints. When we become a Christian, all of our sin habits, language, thoughts, and lifestyles are still there. There is a process of transformation that happens. Theologians call this process of being transformed progressive sanctification. We have positional sanctification at salvation, and it is instant. The progressive sanctification is not instantaneous, but is a process. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." We are new creatures and have a new identity. New things are coming and the old things are passing away, but it is a process.

(2 Co 5:17) "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Right in the eyes of God by the word of God

When we seek the righteousness of God in our lives, we must embrace the word of God as our authority. We have seen that we cannot seek His righteousness when we depend on what is right in our own eyes. We cannot depend on what is right in the eyes of our culture or society. There is only one way that we can seek His righteousness. We must submit to God's word in every area of our lives. Look what Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

(2 Ti 3:16-17) "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; {17} that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Paul tells us that all Scripture has been inspired by God. Literally, the text says has been breathed by God. The men in the Old and New Testament were under the breath or inspiration of God as they wrote the Scriptures. The source of the Scriptures is God. The word of God is His word. The word of God contains His thoughts. The word of God contains His ways. The word of God is the plumb line that we must use.

Paul goes on to say that the Scriptures are profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. If we want to know what is righteous and what is not righteous, Paul tells us the answer. The Scriptures are to be used for training in righteousness. If we want to seek

first His righteousness, we must use the Scriptures as our guide. The Scriptures teach us and give us understanding of what is right and wrong. The Scriptures reprove us when we get out of line. The Scriptures tell us how to get back in line or make corrections. The Scriptures train us in how to stay on course, so that we do not get off the right path. It is the word of God that is our authority.

In Psalms 119:9-11, we have a great question and answer. The Psalmist asks, "how can a young man keep his way pure?" In other words, how can we seek first His righteousness? How can we walk in His righteousness? How can we walk in purity? Then, he gives the answer. We keep our way pure by keeping it according to God's Word.

(Ps 119:9, 11) "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.... {11} Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee."

The follow up question to that is, how do we keep it according to God's Word? That answer is given in verse eleven. We must treasure His word in our hearts. We read, memorize, study, and meditate on God's word. And, most importantly, we do what the word tells us to do. The purpose of filling our hearts with this treasure is so that we can be doers of the word.

Right in the eyes of God by His Spirit

In Romans 8:14, Paul tells us that all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. When you and I were born again, the Holy Spirit came into us, and we had a spiritual birth. We were spiritually born again. The Holy Spirit guides us. To be led by the Spirit is a wonderful blessing.

(Ro 8:14) "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

Where does the Holy Spirit lead us? The Holy Spirit leads us in paths of righteousness. In Psalms 23:3, David tells us that the Lord guides him in the paths of righteousness. When we are wanting to seek first His righteousness, it is important to allow the Lord to lead us by His Spirit, because He will lead us in paths of righteousness.

(Ps 23:3) "He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

What does the Holy Spirit use to guide us in the paths of righteousness? Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth. Jesus tells us in John 16:13 that the Spirit of truth will guide us into all the truth. The Holy Spirit guides us and reveals to us truth. The Holy Spirit leads us and guides us in the paths of righteousness by guiding us in truth.

(Jn 16:13) ""But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

There are times when there are many paths in front of us, and we are not sure about which path to take. We want to seek the path of righteousness, but we just are not sure. Guess what? The Holy Spirit helps guide us. The Holy Spirit helps us in those times of weakness. The Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us according to the will of God. We need to take time to pray with our

minds and pray in the Spirit. As we pray in the Spirit, we know that the Spirit is praying God's perfect will for us.

(Ro 8:26-27) "And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; {27} and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

When we take time to pray about something, it helps us to avoid walking in the flesh. Paul wrote that those who are according to flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. In Galatians, he wrote that if we walk in the Spirit, we will not carry out the deeds of the flesh. Setting our minds on the spirit and walking in the spirit includes prayer, worship, reading and meditating on Scripture. He wrote in Ephesians that worship ushers in the Spirit and the presence of God, and this is why God encourages us to be filled with the Spirit, by worshiping Him. If we are going to seek God's righteousness in our lives, we must live by the Spirit.

(Ro 8:5) "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

(Ga 5:16) "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

(Eph 5:18–19) "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;"

Conclusion and Applications

This morning, we have learned that we must obtain His righteousness by coming into a relationship with Jesus Christ. He took our sins on Himself and became sin so that we could receive His righteousness. Once we have received His righteousness, we must seek His righteousness in our lives. Being forgiven of our sins and counted as righteous is great, but it does not mean that we are living righteously. We must begin to seek His righteousness in our lives.

The world has tried to squeeze us into its mold. The world has tried to remove God and His moral absolutes from society. The world has introduced and pushed relativism so that there are no moral absolutes. The world has tried to make each of us our own authorities about what is right and wrong. If it is right in our own eyes, it is okay to do it. If it feels good, we can do it. It is an attack on righteousness. It has made it difficult for people to know what is right and what is wrong. But we are to resist being squeezed into the mold of the world, and we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We must renew our minds with the word of God. We must do what is right in God's eyes, not our own eyes.

God has given or breathed His word to us so that we can be trained in righteousness. His word helps us to see what is right in His eyes. God has also given us His Spirit, the Spirit of truth, to lead us and guide us in His truth. The Holy Spirit guides us in the paths of righteousness. The Holy Spirit reveals things to us that we do not know. God wants us to seek His righteousness. He wants us to call upon Him. He will show us things that we do not know. He will lead us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

What are you trusting in this morning? If you are trusting in your own righteousness, it will not be enough. The good news is that Christ has died for our sins and offers His righteousness to us by faith. You can receive Christ right now, if you believe that He died for our sins and was resurrected, by confessing Him as Lord or master of your life. By placing your trust in Christ, He forgives us and He also justifies us, declaring us innocent and righteous. If you have never asked Jesus Christ to come into your life, I exhort you pray and receive Him right now.

“Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that You lived a perfect and righteous life, and You died so that our sins could be forgiven. You died so that we could be made righteous. I ask You to come into my life. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. I submit my life to You. I confess You to be Lord of my life. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

If you have received Christ, you are a saint, and God expects us to live like saints. In 1 Peter, God tells us as obedient children not to be conformed to the former lusts, but to be holy in all our behavior; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” This morning, make a decision to seek His righteousness and live a holy life based on God’s standards of righteousness. Make a decision and commitment to spending time in God’s word, and applying it in your life. Make a decision to set your mind on the Spirit and to walk in the Spirit. Make a decision to renew your mind with the word of God so that your life will be transformed.

(1 Pe 1:14–16) “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, {15} but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; {16} because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

Closing Prayer

Father God, You tell us to be holy for You are holy. Help us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Help us to live holy lives. Help us to renew our minds with Your word and be transformed. Lord, we submit to the authority of Your word. Help us to obey Your word, even when our culture, government and others say that it is okay. Help us to do what right in Your eyes, not what is right in our own eyes. Jesus, You are coming back for a pure and spotless bride, and that is what we want to be. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Seeking His Righteousness (Mt 6:33)

Seeking His Righteousness

Introduction (Mt 6:33)

1. **The Righteousness of Man** (Ro 10:3, Php 3:4-9, Is 64:6, Eph 2:8-9, Ro 12:2, Jg 17:6, Pr 12:15, 14:12, 21:2, Is 55:8-9)
2. **The Righteousness Required by God** (1 Co 6:9-11, Gen 2:15-17, Ro 5:12, 1 Co 15:21-22, Mt 5:20, 23:27-28, Ro 3:23, Jas 2:10, Ro 6:23)
3. **Seeking His Righteousness** (Jn 19:30, He 4:15, 2 Co 5:21, Gen 15:16, Ro 4:1-5, 2 Co 5:17, 2 Ti 3:16-17, Ps 119:9-11, Ro 8:14, Ps 23:3, Jn 16:13, Ro 8:5, 26-27, Ga 5:16, Eph 5:18-19)

Conclusion and Applications (1 Pe 1:14-16)