THE VALUE OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Matt. 6:33; Matt. 25:46; Prov. 14:34; Prov. 10:7; Psa. 23:3

INTRODUCTION:
1. VALUE has to do with WORTH.
2. The importance of a thing is determined by its value.
3. When a righteous life is compared with other lifestyles it excels them all.
4. Just because a person does not recognize the value of the righteous life, this does not diminish its worth.
5. In this lesson I want to convince you of its worth, if you are not living a righteous life.
6. And to you who are walking in the paths of righteousness, I wish to rekindle your appreciation for righteous living -- Psa. 23:3; Luke 1:6

I. WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

1. "Righteousness" is the quality of being right; the state of him who is such as he ought to be; righteousness; the condition acceptable to God.
2. God’s plan to make man righteous is revealed in the gospel -- Rom. 1:16 - 17
3. When a man obeys the gospel, God’s plan of righteousness is that he is made righteous by the forgiveness of his sins in the blood of Christ -- Heb. 5:13
   (1) Acts 10:35; I John 3:7
   (2) Acts 2:38
   (3) Rev. 1:5
   (4) I John 2:12
4. A man continues to be righteous before God by doing righteousness.
   (1) I John 3:7; I Tim. 6:11; Tit. 2:12
   (2) Psa. 119:172
   (3) The acid test of a man being righteous is -- "Does he do righteousness?"
      1. Does he do the will of Christ? -- Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:13
5. So a person becomes righteous when he meets God’s standard of righteousness -- Acts 10:35; I John 3:7; II Pet. 2:21 -- The way of righteousness -- Rom. 10:3
6. The Jews failed to obtain righteousness by the LAW OF MOSES:
   (1) Rom. 9:31 - 32
   (2) Gal. 2:16; 2:21; 3:21
   (3) Phil. 3:9
7. God has provided a plan of righteousness apart from the law
   (1) Rom. 3: 21 - 22
   (2) The gospel -- Rom. 1: 16 - 17
   (3) When we obey the gospel:
      1. We are justified freely by His grace -- Rom. 3:24
      2. We are justified by the blood of Christ -- Rom. 5:9
      3. We are justified by Faith -- Rom. 3:28, 26
      4. We are justified by works of faith -- James 2:24
      5. We are justified by the name of the Lord Jesus -- I Cor. 6:11
      6. God is the one that justifies us when we obey the gospel -- Rom. 8:33

II. "THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE OVER THE RIGHTEOUS AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN UNTO THEIR PRAYERS" -- I Pet. 3:12
   1. The righteous are known and blessed of God -- Matt. 6:33; II Tim. 2:19; Psa. 5:12
   2. The righteous are upheld and given stability by God in an unstable world -- Psa. 37: 17, 39; Psa. 55:22; Phil. 4: 13

III. THE RIGHTEOUS POSSESS THE POWER OF PRAYER
   1. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." -- James 5:16
   2. "God’s ears are open to the prayers of the righteous" -- I Pet. 3:12
   3. I John 5: 14 - 15

IV. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE GREAT STRENGTH AND THEY ARE FRUITFUL
   1. These two things are affirmed in Proverbs 12: 3, 12
   2. "But the root of the righteous shall not be moved" -- Prov. 12:3
      (1) The righteous man has deep roots that enable him to stand against the storms that come.
      (2) He is rooted:
         1. In Divine truth -- I Cor. 15:1; John 15: 7; Eph. 6:11, 13 - 17
         2. In deep convictions.
         3. In fixed habit of a good life.
         4. In great trust in God -- Heb. 13: 5 - 6
      3. He is immoveable
         (1) He stands fast in the Lord -- Phil. 4:4
         (2) He stands fast in the Faith -- I Cor. 16: 13
         (3) He stands fast and is unmovable -- I Cor. 15: 58
When there comes against him stormy winds of temptation, of doctrinal error, of personal attacks, he is NOT moved.

4. "The root of the righteous yeildeth fruit" -- Prov. 12:12

V. THE RIGHTEOUS EXERT A POWERFUL INFLUENCE FOR GOOD.

1. "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" -- Prov. 14:34
2. The righteous preserve a nation.
3. The righteous are SALT and LIGHT -- Matt. 5:13 - 16
4. The righteous preserve the home -- Prov. 12:7 "The house of the righteous shall stand"...

VI. THE RIGHTEOUS DO NOT LIVE WORLDLY LIVES

1. Tit. 2:11 - 12
2. I Pet. 2:11
3. Col. 3:5 - 6

VII. THE RIGHTEOUS WILL INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE

1. "The righteous into life eternal"... Matt. 25:46
2. Don't you want to be among the righteous?

CONCLUSION:

1. You can become righteous today by obeying the gospel of Christ
2. Won't you start living a righteous life today?
3. SUBMIT to it -- Rom. 10:3
4. HUNGER after it -- Matt. 5:6
5. FOLLOW after it -- I Tim. 6:11
6. LIVE it -- Tit. 2:12
7. LOVE IT -- Heb. 1:9
8. SUFFER for it -- Matt. 5:10

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(Underwood Heights, Florence AL 1982; Hebron Lane, Shepherdsville KY 1989; River Bend, Florence AL 1995)