

January 2021

will be
our last
Newsletter

Thank you
for reading
all these years

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FORTRESS OF
JOY CHURCH

Righteousness

In the church world we have two kinds of righteousness and only one of them is legitimate.

Romans 10:3 Israel, being ignorant of God's righteousness, are going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Israel and a lot of churches today believe that righteousness comes from good works. The problem with such a declaration is that they define what those good works are! I know of several church organizations that agree that abortion is acceptable to control the population of the world. Some of them approve of same-sex marriage, after all what really matters is a loving, caring relationship. These folks are establishing their own righteousness, therefore they are not submitted to the righteousness of God. Some of them choose to be ignorant, thereby excusing themselves from judgement or so they think.

Isaiah 64:6 We are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

If a man could create a formula for his own personal righteousness, then why did Jesus die for his sins? Some men have a problem believing God

can save them all by Himself. They are convinced that they have a say in their salvation. When men have no personal contact with God, they have no revelation of Him so they create organizations we call "religion". Religion is man's interpretation of what they want God to say and do. Some know better and some are truly ignorant. The ignorant ones can be persuaded of the truth.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For God has made Jesus to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Only God can make a man righteous, no man has the power or the means to do what only God can do. What is our part of the equation? Humility. God resists the proud, those who stablish their own righteousness and He gives grace to the humble. No man can be made righteous apart from the grace of God. If the only thing grace would do is cover sin, it would be no better than the law of

Moses or modern religion. Grace from God expunges our sins forever and then it miraculously changes our very nature. We come to the Father a child of wrath(the devil) and we become a son of God. Are all of God's sons righteous? They wouldn't be sons if they weren't.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith: and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

The righteous are saved by grace, it is God's gift to the humble. You don't earn a gift, you accept it. Men will always struggle with God's gift of righteousness because they have yet to understand the love of God. I was one of these ignorant people, I just couldn't understand why God would want to save me and I didn't have to do anything to earn it. My perception of God was obscured by religion, it taught me their ignorance. But today I can say honestly I am a righteous man and I will be in heaven with my Savior.



How you
get saved
determines
how long
you stay
saved.

I have noticed over the years that some Bible teachers teach that holiness and righteousness are one and the same. Whenever I do not understand something or if I have a question, I go to the Word and ask the Holy Spirit to lead me to the truth. Let's remember what righteousness is. It's a gift God gives the humble when they ask in faith. When you become the righteousness of God you are as righteous as you will ever be. God only has one level of righteousness, He imparts His best the first time out and we can't improve on it.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness, in the fear of God.

Holiness

ance, getting forgiven of the sin that so easily besets us. Only the righteous are capable of living a holy lifestyle. Righteousness is the condition of a born-again spirit, holiness reflects the condition of the new man. A man who is dedicated to a life of holiness will resist the devil and he will pray for the power to resist temptation. This man endeavors to be more like Christ every day and in every aspect of his life.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will ever see the Lord.

Holiness or the lack there of is the evidence of a born-again Christian's willingness to be saved. I know a lot of people who said the sinners prayer and they acted like a Christian for a season, but they

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly.

I know this is gross and I'm sure we have all seen a dog vomit and then turn around and eat what he barfed up. Why does a dog do this? Because he didn't want to get rid of it to begin with and just like a fool, a man will get born-again but return to his old lifestyle because he never really wanted to leave it to begin with. There are a lot of born-again Christians who demonstrate no change in their lifestyles. It is not our business to go around and judge the fruits of holiness among our brethren. However, if a man openly claims to be somebody we have a right to observe their claim to see if they are who they claim to be.

Mathew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits you will know them.

Jesus spoke this, now let's put ourselves in the place of the people He is referring to.

We will be known by our fruits.

Holiness can be faked but that means nothing because God is the righteous judge and He is the one we must concern ourselves with. The righteous are equipped to walk in holiness if they choose to do so. If your heart is right you will look forward to seeing Jesus on that day.

When a righteous man chooses to live for Jesus, his lifestyle is called holiness. Holiness begins with repent-

chose to go back to their old lifestyle. I believe it was something Michael Brown said in one of his books. [How you get saved determines how long you stay saved.](#)



Love

The Bible teaches much about love and it needs to because our idea of love is not like the love God holds for us. Human love is based on performance, you do something nice to me and I will love you. The Bible kind of love, the God kind of love, is a commitment. Love is the desire to benefit others at the expense of self. Selfishness is the desire to benefit self at the expense of others.

Luke 6:32 If you love them which love you, what reward have you? For sinners also love those that love them.

It is absolutely imperative that we love like God loves because faith won't work apart from love. The God kind of love is not a

I John 4:7 Let us love one another: for God is love, and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God.

As a recovering Catholic I struggled with my salvation by grace because I was taught to earn God's love and blessings. I could never accept that God loves me without condition, surely I had to do something to prove I deserved His love. One day my son did something naughty and I punished him. Then the Lord spoke to my heart and said your son broke a rule, do you still love him? I said "Of course I do Lord". Then I got a revelation, even though I was naughty, God still loved me because I was His child. If any man is to have a relationship with his Lord and Savior he must have the revela-

If any man questions the love of God he will lack the confidence to go to God when he is in trouble. Let's get something settled, God does not approve of our sins but He does approve of us. The devil is jealous of the love our Heavenly Father bestows upon us, so he is always trying to drive a wedge between us. Our Lord loves us with an everlasting love so all satan can do is lie to us. But not only is God love, He is also truth. God is love, He cannot lie. The devil is evil and he cannot tell the truth, he is the father of all lies.

Romans 8:35 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can tribulation, distress, famine, persecution or peril or the sword?

If any man questions the love of God he will lack the confidence to go to God when he is in trouble



feeling, it is a commitment to help those we can help. If love was a feeling there would be no reward because not everyone feels like loving. God so loved the world that He committed His Son as He hung on the cross. The people who love the best are those who themselves are loved.

tion of God's love toward him. God does not approve of any sin but no sin will stop Him from loving us.

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Nothing can change God's mind about loving us, His love makes us more than conquerors. When a man knows he is loved how could he be depressed or hopeless? Love means something to those who are loved, it means that God is with them and He has their back.



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Restoring the supernatural power of God back to the local church

Hope

One of the greatest problems plaguing the world today is a lack of hope, the most popular drugs prescribed today are antidepressants. The Bible definition of hope is intense earnest expectation, something the world has in short supply.

Ephesians 2:12 At one time you were without Christ, being cut off from Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.

People who live in a world full of anxiety and depression rarely ever consider a relationship with God. They rely on counselors, drugs and alcohol to help them get through the day. They don't understand why Christians are always happy and content, they think it's just hype. They

do not expect anything good to happen to them, they cross the bridge of despair when they come to it, and they will come to it.

Hebrews 6:19 We have hope which is an anchor of the soul.

The promise of God is what gives us hope, His presence is so comforting. A Christian rarely "feels" God but His Word has convinced them of His ongoing presence. People

who have anchored their soul to hope don't need medical stimulation. A believer's righteousness, holiness and love of God are more powerful than any feel good drug. They know that God has their life all mapped out and He put them on the right path. It's amazing how happy one can be when he has nothing to worry about!

