### Message



Neal Parker

## "...Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand..."

- Who said, "...Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand..."?
  - Matthew 3:1-3, 7-15
    - Repent "to change one's mind for better" or "heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins"
    - Vine's Expository Dictionary "to perceive afterwards, implying to change the mind / seat of our moral reflection"
      - The concept of repentance is found in the Gospel accounts, the Acts of the Apostles, messages to the New Testament Churches, as well as the messages to the Churches in Revelation (end time).

## "...Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand..."

- Who said, "...Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand..."?
  - Matthew 4:12-17
    - Repent "to change one's mind for better" or "heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins"
    - Jesus preached the same message that John the Baptist preached, in preparation for Jesus' ministry.
  - Luke 13:1-9
    - Jesus links Repentances to Salvation

### What is Righteousness?

- "Right Doing" Bible's use of "righteousness" is both specific and broad—so broad that in some places it is treated as a synonym of salvation itself:
  - Psalm 119:172
  - Isaiah 45:8
  - Isaiah 46:12-13
  - Isaiah 51:5
  - Isaiah 56:1
  - Isaiah 61:10
  - I John 2:1-2

### What Is Righteousness?

#### Biblical Context

- Fulfilling all that God has commanded or required of us.
- Related to our relationship with our Father,
  Jesus Christ and our neighbor / fellow man.
- Our life and having a right relationship with Our Father, Jesus Christ and our neighbor / fellow man
- "It is the character of quality of being right or just. It is used to denote an attribute of God."
  - Vines Commentary

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#### Biblical Context

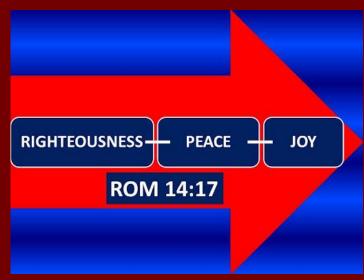
- All of the commandments of God summarize righteousness.
- Matthew 22:36-40 Love God with all that we've got and our treat our neighbor / fellow man as we treat ourselves.
- One of the primary concerns of Jesus' ministry is that we have a right relationship with our Father and a right relationship with our neighbor / fellow man

### Righteousness — Peace - Joy

#### Romans 14:16-19

- Without righteousness, you don't have peace; without peace you don't have joy; you don't have joy without righteousness.
- Unless righteousness becomes a reality in our life, peace and joy are not going to be in our lives.
- The Kingdom of Heaven
  - Millennium (1,000 Year reign of Jesus Christ and the saints) / Jesus the Righteous comes, then peace and then joy.
    - Counterfeit governments (political, religious and family)

- Matthew 5:13-20
- Doctrinal orthodoxy does not save anyone.
- James 2:19
- ✓ We can believe all the right things, all the right doctrines and yet, at the end, never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✓ Do we look deep within our thoughts and recognize any traits of the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes?



#### ■ John 3:1-8

- ✓ We must be born of the Spirit and allow our Father and Jesus Christ to work with our spirit. We must allow them to use the Spirit to change our mind / seat of our moral reflection.
- √ This process is the only way our righteousness witll surpass the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes.



- Ephesians 4:23-24
  - ✓ We must be born of the Spirit and allow our Father and Jesus Christ to work with our spirit. We must allow them to use the Spirit to change our mind / seat of our moral reflection.
  - ✓ This process is the only way we move to be in the likeness of God, in true righteousness and holiness.



#### ■ II Corinthians 5:21

✓ The imputation of righteousness is very important to understanding our salvation, but don't think it's the only thing that the Bible teaches about righteousness, in relation to our salvation.



### **Application to Our Life**

- Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness Matthew 5:6
- We must keep on making the spiritual efforts even as we did the physical, and growth will occur.
- Keep on praying for others, thanking God for His goodness and mercy, asking for wisdom, love and faith. Keep studying God's Word.
- Indicative of Us?
- Revelation 7:13-17

