

# Message

**Seek Righteousness and Humility**



***Neal Parker***

# Seek Righteousness and Humility

## ■ Zephaniah 2:3

- **Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do His just commands; seek righteousness, seek humility, perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.**



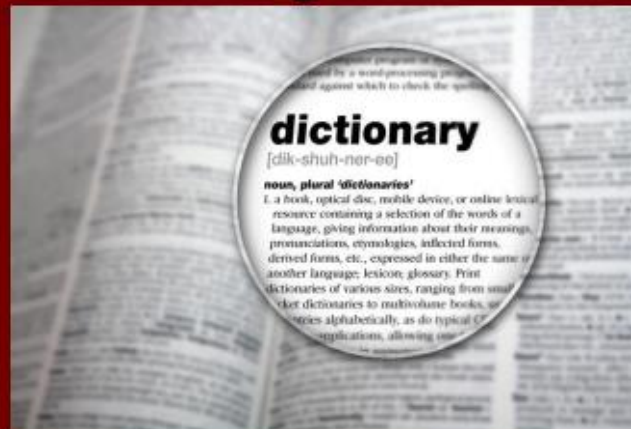
# **“...Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand...”**

- **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 2-3 (end time).**

# What is Meekness?

## ■ Definition

- To Show Patience and a Gentle Disposition.
- Humbly Patient or Docile, as under provocation from others.
- Humble in spirit or manner.
- Softness of temper; mildness, gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations.



# **“...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 51:5-6
  - Isaiah 56:1
  - Isaiah 61:10
  - I John 2:1-2

# What Is Meekness?

## ■ Biblical Context

- Humble and gentle toward others and willingly being submissive and obedient to God.
- It is not being selfish, arrogant, loud or obnoxious.
- The opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest.
- “It is not a spirit of elated or cast down, because it is not occupied with self at all.”
  - Vines Commentary

# 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



# What Is Righteousness?

## ■ 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**

# What Does The Bible Say About Meekness?

- **Does “patience and a gentle disposition” describe us as a people or as a church?**
  - **Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”.**
  - **Psalm 37:11 “But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.”**
    - **Those who humbly acknowledge their dependence on the goodness and grace of God and betray no arrogance toward their fellowman will be blessed.**
  - **Galatians 5:22-23**
    - **God wants His people to be meek (gentle is also translated as meek); It is a fruit of God’s Spirit.**

# 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)

# “...Unless Your Righteousness Surpasses...”

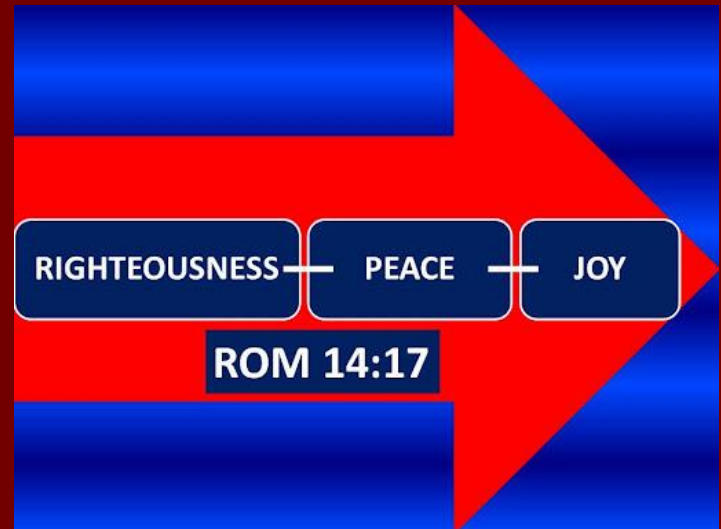
## ■ Matthew 5:13-20

– 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?



# **“...Unless Your Righteousness Surpasses...”**

## **■ John 3:1-8**

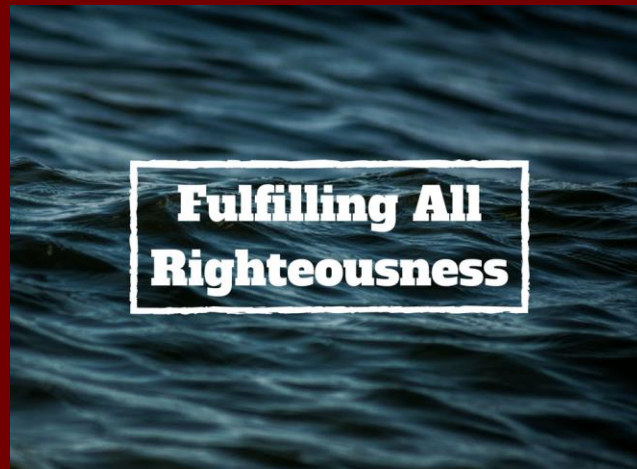
- ✓ We must be born of the Spirit and allow our Father and Jesus Christ to work with our spirit. We must allow them to use the Spirit to change our mind / seat of our moral reflection.**
- ✓ This process is the only way our righteousness will surpass the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes.**



# **“...Unless Your Righteousness Surpasses...”**

## **■ 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.**



# **“...Unless Your Righteousness Surpasses...”**

## **■ 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.**





# Seek Humility and Righteousness

## ■ Zephaniah 2:3

- **Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do His just commands; seek righteousness, seek humility, perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.**





# Consider The Example of Moses

## ■ Exodus 3:10-11

- Previously, Moses thought he was ready, and he impetuously promoted himself to do the job of delivering his people. He did it without waiting for God. Before, Moses promoted himself, but in Exodus 3, he says, "God, who am I?" A change had occurred in Moses' thought process. .



# Consider The Example of Moses

## ■ Exodus 18:13-23

- ❖ This is just another instance where Moses put everyone else before himself. He was working night and day making these judgments for the people even though it was wearing him out. Not one time did he put himself first or complain to God that his work was too difficult. He choose to carry this heavy burden on himself.
- ❖ However, his father-in-law could see the effect this was having on Moses and he gave him some good advice to share some of this burden so that he could endure and be able to help his people even more.
- ❖ Moses was not being timid in this event, he was simply doing the work of the Lord without thinking of his own well-being. He was making judgment calls based on God's Word, which means he was leading.

# Consider The Example of Moses

## ■ Numbers 12:1-15

- ❖ **Moses' brother and sister were giving him a lot a grief about marrying this Cushite woman. The openly condemned him for this and they thought since God had spoken through them in the past that they did not have to follow Moses' lead anymore. We can see Moses' meekness in how he dealt with this situation.**
- ❖ **He never complained to God about their behavior and he decided to bear the burden of their grief. He wasn't one to bother God with every little thing that happened to him. Even though Moses' was willing to bear the burden himself, God heard them condemning Moses and making themselves look important, so God intervened and set them straight.**
- ❖ **Aaron and Miriam's example shows us that God is not pleased with those openly condemn the righteous or who make themselves out to better than other, while Moses' example shows that God will be pleased with our meekness and He will even help us without our request when we learn to be meek like Moses.**

# 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**
- **Zephaniah 2:3**

