

Lesson Book:

Attaining Righteousness

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this text is to aid the reader in a better understanding of various truths found in the Holy Scriptures and discovering for themselves how the Scriptures apply to their lives. It is the desire of this work that through this study of the Scriptures each learner will be brought closer in their relationship to their Creator as a result of these lessons.

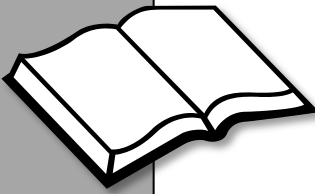
Presented on the following pages is a series of one page lessons associated with the topic of “*Attaining Righteousness*”. Each lesson has been optimized to work best for use in a small group, but is also appropriate for individual review. In fact, if you plan to meet with others to work through this lesson book, it is highly recommend that you work through the lessons ahead of time to find answers in Scripture, as most lessons welcome discussion. When prompted for discussion, *opinions* should be heard and discussed, of course. However, a Scripture verse or passage should accompany discussions as the foundation for what the belief or opinion is based on. Study tools, such as a printed concordance or searchable Bible software to help you find the location of a Scripture that you may be having a hard time remembering, are encouraged for use with these lessons. Please remember always to study the Scriptures in context of the full passage to ensure that it properly accompanies the topic being discussed.

Concerning the source used for these lessons, please note that all Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the Modern King James Version of the Bible. The purpose in using this particular English translation is simply because of its wide acceptance and the fact that it is public domain in the United States, allowing the text to be freely quoted without copyright restriction. From the start, readers are encouraged to have his or her preferred translation of their Bible alongside for reference while reading along.

In addition, traditional Christian terms and names are *intentionally* used throughout this lesson book to reach a larger scope of readers and help those who may be beginners in this knowledge learn with ease. Occasionally, the need to employ the use of a Hebrew term or phrase may present itself for a clearer understanding of Scripture; when this occurs, the corresponding English meaning is always supplied.

His Commandments are Righteousness

Scripture Highlights



Psalms 119:172 My tongue shall speak Your Word, for all Your Commandments are righteousness.

Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blameless in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 4:8 And who is a great nation whose statutes and judgments are so righteous as all this Law which I set before you today?

Psalms 37:29-32 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever. The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of judgment. The Law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to kill him.

Romans 10:4-5 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes. For Moses writes of the righteousness which is of the Law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." (It should read "Christ is the goal of the law for righteousness")

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Group Discussion

Most of us think we know what it means to be righteous, but do we really? Let's take a look.

- 1) According to Psalms 119:172, how is righteousness defined? Do we define it or does God define it?
- 2) In Luke 1:6, how were they found righteous before God?
- 3) How does Deuteronomy 4:8 define a great nation?
- 4) Look up Job 29:14 & Revelation 3:18 & 19:8. Discuss the spiritual concept of clothed in righteousness vs nakedness.
- 5) Read Psalms 37:29-32, What is attributed to his righteousness?
- 6) Romans 10:4-5 has caused great confusion. The problem lies with the mistranslation of the Hebrew as "end" rather than "goal". Now notice all of the verses you've just read align with Romans 6:16.

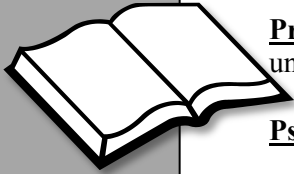
All His commandments (or instructions) are for righteousness and the keeping of them makes us wise. This is God's definition of righteousness and wisdom. It is being obedient to His commandments, which are defined in The Law. The will of our Father is that we DO the commandments, not just talk about them. When you keep the commandments then you are putting on righteousness. You are clothing yourself in the White Linen of the Saints.

Romans 9:31-32 But Israel, who followed after a law of righteousness did not arrive at a law of righteousness. Why? Because it was not of faith, but as it were by the works of the Law. For they stumbled at that Stumbling-stone;

Why were they not considered righteous? The Law is not done away with. Paul gives us the answer. They were only "doing" the Law, going through the motions, without FAITH behind it, to back it up and give it substance. They were seeking their own righteousness through obedience to His instructions. Faith means believing God is who He says He is and therefore, being obedient to His instructions. Faith therefore, includes belief and "walking out" that belief in obedience. Obedience is a result of our faith. Faith comes first. Then we want to please Him via our obedience.

His Torah Gives Understanding

Scripture Highlights



Proverbs 9:10 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Psalms 119:104 Through Your Commandments I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Deuteronomy 4:5-6 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as Jehovah my God commanded me, so that you should do so in the land where you go to possess it. And you shall keep and do them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

Exodus 31:13-14 Speak also to the sons of Israel, saying, Truly you shall keep My sabbaths. For it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, to know that I am Jehovah who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death. ...

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man.

Group Discussion

Many associate understanding with knowledge and attribute both to educational achievement. Is this how God defines these attributes? Let's see what the Scriptures listed above can teach us.

- 1) According to Proverbs 9:10, what is the source of wisdom? What is "knowledge of the holy" that leads to understanding? Read Exodus 31:13-14 listed above, to see the relationship of His Sabbaths to holiness.

The commandments of God provide instructions on how to live righteously before Him. These instructions provide us "knowledge of the holy" and this leads to understanding. These commandments are known as the Torah of Moses, better known simply as The Law or in Hebrew, The Torah.

- 2) According to Psalms 119:104, what is the source of understanding?
- 3) David says he hates every false way. This refers to a way contrary to what God has told them to do in His commandments. Can you identify some false ways? Have you ever practiced something that is not in the Bible? If it is not in the Bible or you do something contrary to what is there, then it is a man-made law or man-made tradition. We are told to not add or subtract from His Law. Many traditions have pagan roots.

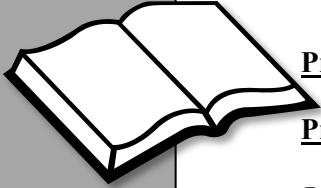
Read these verses about modifying His Word: Matthew 5:19, Proverbs 30:6, and Deuteronomy 12:32.
Read these verses about traditions: Galatians 1:14, Colossians 2:8, and Mark 7:7-13.

- 4) Deuteronomy 4:5-6 speaks of "statutes and judgments". Why does God want you to keep and do them?
- 5) In Ecclesiastes 12:13, we see everything we've learned thus far summarized as two things. What are they?

We begin with faith in God, which leads us to a desire to please Him, just like our natural parents. We do this through obedience to His Word. These instructions are found primarily in The Torah although His entire Word is filled with Wisdom for us. This "Fear of God" causes us to diligently seek His Word and search our hearts.

His Torah Gives Wisdom

Scripture Highlights



Proverbs 13:14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 28:7 Whoever keeps the law is a wise son...

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him.

Psalms 119:169 “Let my cry come near to You, O Jehovah; give me wisdom according to Your Word.”

Proverbs 3:21-23 My son, do not let them depart from your eyes; keep sound wisdom and judgment, and they shall be life to your soul and grace to your neck; then you shall walk in your way safely, and your foot shall not stumble.

Proverbs 4:5-7 Get wisdom, get understanding; forget not; nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she shall preserve you; love her, and she shall keep you. Wisdom is the main thing; get wisdom; and with all your getting get understanding.

Job 28:28 And to man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom! And to depart from evil is understanding!

Forwarding Thoughts and Questions

We have now learned the commandments of God are linked to righteousness. We have also seen them linked to understanding. In fact, we have learned “the righteous speak wisdom” and “The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom”.

In Psalm 119:169, we see wisdom comes from “Your Word”. In Proverbs 4:5-7, we see wisdom and understanding associated with the words of His mouth. Those words are The Torah of Moses, also called The Law. They are His commandments or instructions to live by. Moses recorded these words in Genesis – Deuteronomy.

Jesus is known as “The Living Torah” because He came to show us how to live out those words. To show us the Torah that is written on stone is to become the Living Torah written on our heart. The Law is to be mixed with Faith to be complete. The Jews were using the Torah to justify themselves through their own obedience and they had no faith with it. Paul explains this below:

Romans 3:31 Do we then make the Law void through faith? Let it not be! But we establish the Law.

Philippians 3:9 and be found in Him; not having my own righteousness, which is of the Law, but through the faith of Christ, the righteousness of God by faith,

Let’s finish by answering these questions:

1. What happens when individuals define wisdom and righteousness? Do we need the standard that God has provided?
2. Please look up Acts 9:31 and 2 Corinthians 5:11. These New Testament verses also refer to “fear of the Lord”.
3. Please read Romans chapters 3 & 4 and discuss it in the context of what you have learned in this lesson book.