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# Committed To The Righteousness Of God (A Righteous Work)

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Committed

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: Committed: Committed To The Righteousness Of God (A Righteous Work)***

***Lesson Text***

Psalm 15:1–2 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? <sup>2</sup> He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Romans 6:1–2 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Ephesians 6:13–14 (KJV)<sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

James 2:19–20 (KJV)<sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. <sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

***Introduction***

This series is about the qualities necessary to be committed to God. At the beginning of the year, we talked about the quality of faithfulness and loyalty even when it hurts: Psalm 15: <sup>4</sup> ... *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

Well, in verse 2 of this Psalm we actually see three additional qualities of a committed person: An Upright Walk (Character), A Righteous Work (Righteousness), and A True Word (Truth).

Last week, we dealt with an upright walk or character by looking at compromise, charisma, and understanding.

Today, we will look at a righteous work by exploring righteousness.

Righteousness is defined as acting in accord with divine or moral law: free from guilt or sin. In its deeper spiritual meaning, righteousness is the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including character (nature), conscience (attitude), conduct (action), and command (word).

Righteousness is, therefore, based upon God's standard because He is the ultimate Lawgiver.

I find an interesting juxtaposition in scripture concerning righteousness:

- Our righteousness is as a filthy rag, and yet we are implored to live holy and righteously.
- We are not saved by works of righteousness, yet faith without works makes us useless.

Last week, we looked at the struggle of walking upright to build our character, today we will look at the struggle to do a righteous work when it doesn't actually save us.

***Series and Sermon: Committed: Committed To The Righteousness Of God (A Righteous Work)***

(Committed to Righteous Living, Righteous Protection, and Righteous Work)

***I. Committed to Righteous Living***

Romans 6:1–2 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Scripture clearly implores (pressed, beseeches, pleads) with us to live a holy and righteous life.

- Leviticus 11:44 (KJV)<sup>44</sup> For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: ...
- Romans 12:1 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

And yet, the same bible clearly states that righteous living does not save us.

- Titus 3:5 (KJV)<sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- Isaiah 64:6 (KJV)<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

And then when we recall Asaph's struggle in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Psalm when he said he had almost given up when he saw the prosperity of the wicked, and even went on to say in the 13<sup>th</sup> verse that he was cleansing his heart (living righteously) in vain, since he was getting nothing for it.

So, then the inevitable question we have to ask ourselves is why live holy? Why commit ourselves to righteous living?

The first reason is because God expects it out of us.

When we raise our children and have sacrificed for them, we expect certain things and behaviors out of them. Not because we would punish them, but because they love us.

Luke 12:48 (KJV)<sup>48</sup> ...**For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:**

We are not saved because we live righteously, we live righteously because we have been saved.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (KJV)<sup>9</sup> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

And so Moses implores us to be holy, Paul beseeches us to be a living sacrifice, and in Romans, the writer appeals to our decency to live righteously.

## ***II. Committed to Righteous Protection***

Ephesians 6: <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

The second reason we should commit ourselves to righteous living is because it protects us.

In our current day, our soldiers wear bulletproof vests; designed to keep bullets shot at them from penetrating and hitting a vital organ. Because if the bullet hits your heart or your lungs, you will die.

Now the bullet will still hurt, knock you off your feet, make you lose your breath, temporarily knock you out of the fight; but you can get back on your feet, get your second wind, and get up and say, "I'm Back."

Well, the breastplate of righteousness is your bullet proof vest against the attacks of the enemy.

The enemy is not trying to give us a headache or a bad day; he's trying to kill us: John 10:10 (KJV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

He's trying to steal our joy, kill our dreams and visions, and destroy our calling and purpose.

So how does living righteous protect us?

An Old Hymnal we used to sing tells us why we must live righteously:

- May the life I live speak for me!  
When the best I try to live,  
My mistakes He will forgive.  
May the life I live speak for me!
- May the work I've done speak for me!  
When I'm resting in my grave,  
There is nothing that can be said.  
May the work I've done speak for me!

When afflictions come, your righteousness protects you: Psalm 34:19 (KJV)<sup>19</sup> *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

When weapons are formed and lies are told, your righteousness protects you: Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)<sup>17</sup> *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.*

You may get knocked down, you may get knocked out of the fight, you may get the wind knocked out of you. But your righteousness will get you a second wind.

"I'm Back! I got knocked down, but I got a second wind: a second wind to get up, a second wind to fight again, a second wind to pray again, to shout again, to dance again, to praise again!"

### ***III. Committed to Righteous Work***

James 2:20 (KJV)<sup>20</sup> *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

- Committed to Righteous Living because where much is given, much is required

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- Committed to Righteous Protection because the enemy is trying to kill, steal, and destroy
- Committed to Righteous Work because without it, our faith becomes useless.

Titus 3:5 (KJV)<sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Our works do not save us, our works do not heal us, our works do not guarantee us a life of bliss, our works do not deliver us, our works do not prosper us.

So why work? Because Jesus called and sent us to work.

John 9:4 (KJV)<sup>4</sup> **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**

Matthew 9:37 (KJV)<sup>37</sup> Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;**

We can have all the faith in the world that our loved ones will be saved, the deliverance will come, the healing will come, that breakthrough will happen, that homes and families will be restored; but faith without works is dead.

James 2:<sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Revelation 22:12 (KJV)<sup>12</sup> **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

We must be committed to Righteous Work!

# Committed To The Righteousness Of God (A Righteous Work)

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Committed To The Righteousness Of God (A Righteous Work))

### Lesson Text

- Psalm 15:1–2, Romans 6:1–2, Ephesians 6:13–14, James 2:19–20

### Sermon Outline

- I. *Committed to Righteous Living***
- II. *Committed to Righteous Protection***
- III. *Committed to Righteous Work***

### Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

#### **I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What is something that made you smile today?
2. Would you rather receive your messages from a phone call, an email, or a text message?

#### **II. Into the Bible**

1. Romans 6:15-23. Is there a difference between ‘sinning’(missing the mark) and ‘being a servant/slave to sin’? If so, what’s the difference?
2. Ephesians 6:13-14. What is the purpose of putting on the whole armor of God? Why is it important to have on the breastplate of righteousness and what does it protect us against?

#### **III. Life Application**

1. Describe a time that righteousness was your protection.
2. Sometimes people describe their righteousness in terms of what they don’t do. Describe righteous works that believers do.