

## The Value Of Righteousness

1 Peter 3:13-22

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- ▶ *"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Proverbs 14:34).
- ▶ *"Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man"* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

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## What Is Righteousness?

**Righteousness:** *dikaiousune* – "the character or quality of being right or just; it was formerly spelled 'rightwiseness,' which clearly expresses the meaning. Righteousness embraces the idea of the right knowledge in the mind, leading to the right action in life." (W.E. Vine)

- ▶ **We can know what is right.**
  - *"... in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him"* Acts 10:35
  - God's *"commandments are righteousness"* Psalms 119:12
  - God's plan for making a man righteous is revealed in the Gospel. Romans 1:16-17

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## The Value of Righteous Living to Noah

***"Noah was a righteous man, (and) perfect in his generations: Noah walked with God."* Genesis 6:9**

- ▶ Note: Noah's righteous conduct, amidst wickedness. Genesis 6:5
- ▶ Noah found, *"grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord."* Genesis 6:8
- ▶ Noah's righteousness is demonstrated in the fact that he did *"all that God commanded him."* Genesis 6:22
- ▶ While every living thing was destroyed upon the face of the ground, righteous Noah and his family were saved. 1 Peter 3:20

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## The Value of Righteous Living to Abraham

***"And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God."* James 2:23**

- ▶ Called the *"friend"* of God three times. 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23
- ▶ Faith *"reckoned for righteousness."* Galatians 3:6; Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:5, 9, 21-22; Genesis 22:1-10 (cf. Hebrews 11:17-18); James 2:21-22
- ▶ Righteousness is not always easy, but through Abraham's faith and righteousness he became the one through whom Jesus, the Savior, came. Genesis 3:15; Galatians 3:16

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## The Value of Righteous Living to the City of Sodom

**Ten righteous souls would have delivered the ancient city of Sodom. Genesis 18:22-32**

- Since less than ten righteous people could be counted, two angels went to Sodom to visit and warn Lot of the impending destruction. Genesis 19:1ff
- ▶ *"The Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire ... and he overthrew those cities."* Genesis 19:24-28
- Sodom's wickedness became a word picture for all time. Romans 9:29; Revelation 11:8

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## The Value of Righteous Living To Israel of Old

***“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” Proverbs 14:34***

- ▶ As long as Israel was righteous, no power could overthrow them.
- ▶ Deuteronomy 4:5-6, *“Behold, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, even as Jehovah my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the midst of the land whither ye go in to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, that shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”* cf. Deuteronomy 6:18
- ▶ God watched over Israel (Deuteronomy 32:10) and assured those living righteously of his blessing. Deuteronomy 11:26-28

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Righteousness was the basis of Gods dealing with other nations. Jeremiah 18:1-12

***“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” Proverbs 14:34***

- ▶ Where are the ancient nations?
  - Where are the great empires of Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Rome?
  - Their sin and unrighteousness worked their ruin! cf. Isaiah 10:5ff; Ezekiel 28:15, 18

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## The Value of Righteous Living Today

1. Righteousness gives us access to God. 1 Peter 3:12; Proverbs 15:9; cf. Isaiah 59:1-2
2. Righteousness bears good fruit. Proverbs 11:30
  - You are the *“salt of the earth”* and the *“light of the world”* - Matthew 5:13-14; cf. Titus 2:11-12
3. Righteousness will be crowned. 2 Timothy 4:8
4. Righteousness is the basis of the judgment. Romans 2:7-8; cf. Romans 6:13, 19-23

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