

What Does It Mean to Seek God's Righteousness First and Not Your Own?

Text: Matthew 6:33 (KJV) & Romans 10:1-4 (NKJV)

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But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Romans 10:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, *"The man who does those things shall live by them."*

Three Reasons to Seek God's Righteousness and Not Your Own:

1. Zeal Without Knowledge Becomes Destruction Not Devotion
2. Self-Made Righteousness is Always Self-Deceived Righteousness
3. What You Seek First Determines What You Become

Reason #1: Zeal Without Knowledge Becomes Destruction, Not Devotion

II Corinthians 9:2 (NASB)

for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

Philippians 3:6 (NASB)

concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Reason #2: Self-Made Righteousness is Always Self-Deceived Righteousness

Romans 3:10 (NASB)

as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

Ephesians 2:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

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Reason #3: What You Seek First Determines What You Become

Matthew 6:31-33 (KJV)

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Conclusion:

Isaiah 26:9 (NKJV)

With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; For when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:

1. HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

2. BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

3. REPENT ~ Luke 13:3

I tell you nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.

4. CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

5. BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

6. BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.