

Introduction: Who Do You Know that is a Righteous Person?

I. A Bible Word Study on “Righteousness”

In the Bible, this word for _____ is most often used to describe _____. And, it means that _____ can find anything _____ with God. All of God’s actions are right all the time.

It should not surprise any of us here, that _____ are not _____...

- Romans 3:10 , “There is no one righteous, not even one.”

Good news! Righteousness is a _____ from God that is given to _____.

- Philippians 3:9 “I do not have a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God on the basis of faith.”

II. Applications

1. The breastplate of righteousness can _____ us from false guilt and feelings of _____. This is important because the _____ constantly reminds us of our sins and _____.

- I John 3:20 “If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.”

-“If God says that we are forgiven, then we are, and we can tell our hearts to quiet themselves. – Pastor Tim Keller

2. When we _____ God’s breastplate of righteousness, it does not give us the right to _____ down on others with self-righteousness. A breastplate is only for _____, not for _____.

Don’t do the devil’s work by _____ and _____ others.

- James 4:11 “Do not criticize one another, my friends. If you criticize or judge another Christian, you criticize and judge the Law. If you judge the Law, then you are no longer one who obeys the Law, but one who judges it.

3. We should still _____ righteousness. We want to _____ and thirst for righteousness because _____ in God’s ways does offer us _____ from evil.

- Proverbs 16:17 says, “The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their ways guards their lives.”

Conclusion:

We are challenged in our Christian lives to _____ the very best _____ we can. Run in such a way as to win the prize.

- Hebrews 12:1 says, “Let us throw off everything that hinders.. and run with perseverance the race marked out for us!”

Questions for Further Reflection or Discussion:

- 1) How do we defend ourselves from the devil’s accusations and slander?
- 2) Why is self-righteousness such a problem for Christians?
- 3) If God forgives all our sins and counts us as righteous people in Jesus, why not just keep on sinning? We will never be good enough for God anyway!