

CONVERSATION!

Part 1: "Righteousness and Right-Living!"

A word spoken accurately for the times is like apples of gold in sculptures of silver! Pr 25.11

But it's not only casual exchanges of words and ideas, sharing opinions... It's talking about a matter in its right season and place to bring valuable understanding! RELEVANCE and more...

"The one who offers praise glorifies Me! And to him that orders his conversation: *course of life, mode of action, behavior*, aright: *well, rightly, excellently, famously*, will I show the salvation: *liberty, deliverance, prosperity*, of God." **Psalm 50.23**

"In old times we walked according to the course of this world, directed by the prince of the power of the air, the spirit working in the children of disobedience, among whom we had our conversation: *life, behavior, busyness* in the lusts of the flesh and mind and were by nature children of wrath... but Christ has taught us to get rid of the conversation: *life, behavior, busyness* of the old man, corrupted by deceitful lusts and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds!" **Ephesians 2.2,3 4.21,22**

"Let Your conversation: *life, behavior as a citizen* be what is worthy of the gospel of Christ... that I may hear of you, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel... for our conversation: *community and citizenship* is in heaven, the place we look for our Savior, **the Lord Jesus Christ who is going to change out our bodies to be like His own...**" **Philippians 2.27 3.20,21**

Old Testament and New, three different words... all having to do with our *lifestyle, behavior, and identity!* The way we live, the choices we make, the things we busy ourselves with, all matter! Ask Trump!

Let's make a counterintuitive approach to our year end series by opening the topic of right-living and righteousness!

Counterintuitive! *Going to begin with the inspiration... and end with the challenge...* Like taking you to the hotel spa... and then the obstacles of Mt. Midoriyama... Like taking you on a Disney Cruise... and leaving you in port for your Great Race... Going to "buffet" your body... and then to World's Biggest Loser...

Comfy stuff first... then looking at the obstacles ahead... and why! The even better stuff beyond it all!

Righteousness! *In its classic application it's being "right with God!"* It is a *gift*, grace, "charis" of God! No one can do this on their own behavior! Not a case of more good than bad! One sin makes you guilty of death!

"None righteous, not one!" **Rom 3.10-23** "By one man sin entered the world and death came by sin and death has passed upon all men because all have sinned!" **5.12** "The wages of sin is death..." **6.23**

Being "saved," you are made right with God by the redeeming blood of Jesus! "Now the righteousness of God, which is by faith in Jesus, is upon all who believe!" **Rom 3.22** "He is just, and the justifier of those who believe in Him (and His redemption at the Cross)!" **v24-28** "Being made free from sin we are now the servants of righteousness!" **6.18** "And there is therefore now no condemnation to those in Christ!" **8.1-4** "God made Him to be made sin for us who knew no sin so that we could be made the righteousness of God in Him!" **2Cor 5.21** "Dead in sin we are now quickened with Him, completely

forgiven, because He blotted out the record against us, taking it out of the way, on the Cross!" **Col3.13**
"This is the revealed righteousness of God... the just will live by faith!" **R1.17**

Our righteousness, rightness with God, comes thru our faith in Jesus *finished work* of salvation!

Caveat... Some people believe that if you tell people the truth of their righteousness... That there are no "works" involved... Right with God no matter what we do... that people will go crazy with sin... Not a new "license" argument! **Rom5/6** *Truth* is, when people really see the Cross, the high price a real person paid for our great forgiveness, and His eternal love, they will be done with sin! The one forgiven much, loves much! **Lk7.41-43** And love doesn't sin against God!

God doesn't want us to live right because we have to... but because we are free to!

Right-living! *Is the fruit of our righteousness!* At some point we are expected to grow and begin bearing fruit!

"I am the Vine, you are the branches, every branch that doesn't bear fruit gets cutoff, every branch that does bear fruit gets pruned to bear more! If you abide in Me you will bear much fruit! Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit!" **John 15.1-16** "The time should come when you are teachers and not needing to be taught again the elementary principles!" **H5.12** "leaving our youthful lusts behind to follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with others who call on the Lord out of a pure heart!"

2Tim2.22 "The grace of God that brings us salvation teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world as we look for Jesus to come!"

Titus 2.11-13

Right-living! *All of us are called to it! Who is exempt?* On right-living: "You're righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees who pick and choose their rules and establish their own traditions (and behaviors)..." **Mt 5.17ff** Regarding anger management, words, forgiveness and emotional engagement: "Your anger, without cause puts you in jeopardy of judgment and pain!" **v21ff** Marital fidelity: "If you're even thinking sexual thots outside your marriage committing adultery!" **v27ff** Sexual purity: "You know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't be deceived, fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind will inherit the kingdom..." **1Cor 6.9** Various other issues: "Nor thieves, the covetous, drunkards, revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but you are washed, and sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." **v10,11**

Right-living! *Who is not called to transformation?* "Every one that He foreknew would accept Him, He also predestined them to be conformed into the image of His Son that He would be the firstborn of many more!" **Rom 8.29** "We are not to be conformed to this world: but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." **12.2**

Right-living! *Who is exempt? Only those who hold the truth as unrighteousness!* "who suppress the truth..." **Rom 1.18** "who reject what God has openly shown them..." **v19** "who know Him but refuse to acknowledge, glorify or thank Him..." **v21** "who think themselves smart, strong and able, to change His words..." **v23-27** "who are filled with all unrighteousness and consent with others who are too!" **v29-32**

The enemies of right living... *Ignorance of His word and ways!* Any of us can think we're OK because we don't know God's heart, will and ways! **Rebelliousness to His word and ways!** "I'm not going to do it just because it's a restraint on my personal freedom!" We should follow because we love! **Callousness toward His word and ways!** Can come to a point where our conscience is truly seared... And that's where it can become dangerous...

More... But... for what would you give up the comfort of your righteousness in Christ, and engage the struggle against the obstacles of life?