

Exhortation to be righteous

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September 13, 2026
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Introduction

1. Text Philippians 3:8-11
2. While a prisoner Paul wrote this letter to remind his readers of an attitude of Christ-likeness and joy.
3. He also encourages every Christian to have these attributes.
4. Righteousness means the right conduct of man, which follows the will of God and is pleasing to Him.
5. In our text Paul affirms we cannot be righteous on our own merits.
6. The biblical idea of righteous is important to understand.
7. We must rely upon a standard for righteousness, which is found in God's will.

II Discussion

- A. We must hunger and thirst for it. Matthew 5:6
 1. To feel the most intense desire to obtain it.
 2. The promise is realized in part by the actual attainment of a higher degree of righteous living.
 3. For what do we desire: holiness, knowledge, worship, money, junk food
- B. We must seek it. Matthew 6:33
 1. The righteousness that God requires leads to that cheerful and undistracted industry which always, with the divine blessing, secures food and raiment, and helps to surround us with friends when we come to want.
 2. God's commands should be honored, rather than man's.
 3. Do we seek it as if it were gold?
- C. We must work it. Acts 10:35;
 1. God never did and never will save anyone who does not work at their salvation.
 2. It is not works that we have made up that can save us. Romans 10:1-3; Titus 3:5
- D. We must be the servants of righteousness. Romans 6:18
 1. No longer the servants of one master but now another. Matthew 6:24
 2. One master will harm us the other will love us
 3. A freedom from the service of sin; it is the shaking off of that yoke, resolving to have no more to do with it and the putting on of another yoke, the work of Christ. Matthew 11:28-30
- E. We must believe unto righteousness Romans 10:10
 1. Confessing with the mouth leads to righteousness.
 2. Confessing can mean more than just saying it with the mouth. Matthew 10:32-33
 3. What are people hearing us confess?
- F. We must follow after righteousness 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22
 1. This is something that must be pursued
 2. Keeping the commandments of God. Psalm 119:172
 3. Right doing toward our fellow man.
- G. The world will be judged in righteousness. Acts 17:30-31
 1. There is a standard for this judgment. John 12:48
 2. Are we living by this standard?

III Conclusion

1. We must rely upon the standard for righteousness. Romans 1:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. There are several must in righteousness: hunger and thirst, seek it, work at it, servants of it, must believe unto it and we must follow it, because we will be judge by it.
3. Are you following after righteousness, seeking it with all of you heart for remember you will be judged by it. If you are that is good if not then some changes need to be made in your life.
4. Why not make those changes now and start seeking after righteousness for the rest of your life now.
5. Come believing repenting confessing and being baptized.

Sources: McGarvey on Matthew; Material from A. Webster on the Beatitudes used at ICYC teen week; Coffman on Matthew; Matthew Henry Commentary on Acts, Romans