

Benefits of Righteousness

Concept: Surpassing Pleasures - vs. disciplines (ex: football)
pursuing righteousness because of its appeal (motivation)
vs. restrain because of fear while secretly jealous of “more fun” (Billy Joel)
Mindset: belief that righteousness is better, His Ways Higher (Isa 55:8-9)

(Ps 96:9) Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.
The Fearsome Beauty of His Righteousness (vs. obligation)

What does “His Coming” make you think of?

(Ps 96:11-13) ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and all its fullness; ¹²let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD. ¹³For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.

The Joy of His Coming Justice

What does “Prayer Meeting” make you think of?

(Isa 56:7) Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Joyful Spiritual Disciplines

(Ps 16:11) You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

find the Path of Life (Jesus) in the midst of your circumstances

Supernatural Surpassing Pleasures in the Pursuit (path)

(Phl 3:8-14) ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul saw the Beauty of the Righteousness he could have in Christ

captivated him, drew him into relentless pursuit of those Surpassing Pleasures

Incentives for Pursuing Righteousness (by Faith)

1. Influence ~ Confidence/Boldness

(Jas 5:16) The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (2 Chron 7:14)
(1Jn 3:21-22) ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²²And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

(Pr 28:1) The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

2. Protection

(Job 1:8-10) ⁸Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" ⁹So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?" ¹⁰"Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

(Pr 16:7) When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

3. Provision

(Mt 5:6) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

(Mt 6:33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (food & clothing)

(Ps 37:25) I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.

4. Peace - intrinsically linked to Righteousness (Heb 7:1-2)

(Isa 9:7) Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end,
Jesus extending Justice/Righteousness and Peace (Lk 2:14, Jn 14:27)

We can dwell in and Peace.

(Isa 32:17-18) ¹⁷The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. ¹⁸My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,

We can extend Peace.

(Jas 3:18) Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

(Mt 5:9) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

(Mt 10:13) If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

(Ro 14:17) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

It's a set!

(Pr 14:34) Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Concept the same for Nations as for individuals. (de Tocqueville quote)

Our national issues are not political; they are moral, requiring a moral solution.

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers - and it was not there...in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there...in her rich mines and her vast world commerce - and it was not there...in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution - and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 1835