

Living Righteously

November 15, 2007

Message Title "Living Righteously"

by Pastor Gerald Mandrell

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Rom 1:16-18

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

- Holiness has seemed to have become a challenge for most people to obtain.
- Our salvation is the power which affords us the ability to live, not just a life of faith, but a life of faith that is based upon godliness.
- There are some terms that most people shy away from today, which speaks of their relationship and stand with God that seem to segregate them from the common population. Terms such as, holiness, sanctification, righteousness, perfection, peculiar, and consecrated.
- Most people do not want to be look at as being different; we try so much to assimilate, until we assimilate ourselves to spiritual compromise.

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- Some things, some of us, would never see as being unrighteous or compromising, because we choose to keep God out of that part of our lives.
- There is an element of unholy control that we like to have over certain areas and we resist any efforts of change and ultimately label others as being either fanatical, weak, or religious when challenged to change in those areas.
- I have learned that no matter what is preached, unless individuals allow the Holy Ghost to penetrate their hearts, they never see the errors of their ways.
- Therefore, in these last days, the church has become too compromising and that has led to a frustration of its purpose.
- There was a day that there was a distinct difference between those who are sanctified and those who were not.
- Many of us have forgotten the admonition by Paul in:

2 Cor 6:14-18

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

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¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- Paul is literally speaking in this passage about compromising our spiritual values and assimilating with the unrighteous philosophy of the world.
- Why is it so difficult for the people of God to sanctify themselves for God only? Have you considered why the world seems so attractive to people, when it was the world that caused them to run to Christ?
- We have allowed the lust of our eyes, the lust of our hearts, and the pride of life to cause us to become more attracted to the world than to please God.
- We must learn to sacrifice ourselves, our agendas, and our philosophies to the sole authority of God, the Father. If not, I believe that some of us are in for a rude awakening at judgment time.
- Yes, that's another thing that people do not like to talk about, judgment. We all will have to give an account for all that we do in this flesh.
- We have not seen, nor realized the drastic outcome and punishment of divine judgment, because we have allowed the world to justify ill conditions to fate and not attribute them to the hand of God.
- I believe that God is highly disappointed with the church today and, as the scripture states; He is shortening these last days so that the very elect will not be fooled.
- So, how are we fooled? We are fooled when we choose to outdate the scriptures; when we choose to justify our actions; when we choose to compromise our values and standards; and the like.

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- Some actions are not denominational dependent, but are direct in violation to the word and will of God. God's word never changes, nor does God. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- I believe that most people have had a religious experience, but all are not truly filled and baptized with the Holy Ghost.
- They have a form of godliness, but deny the very power of the God they state that they serve.
- God is not weak; the blood of Jesus is not powerless; the power of the Holy Ghost has not diminished; prayer still works; so does, fasting, studying, and submitting to the word of God.
- Jesus states in:

John 14:15-17

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

- Jesus' words in this passage allow you to take an individual spiritual assessment and to measure your spiritual development based upon your love for Him.
- Just as He said in **Luke 7:47**, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." Many of us have not properly valued His forgiveness of our sins. And, what you value little, you respect little.

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- Our love for God should cause us to obey all of His commandments; they are not grievous, except to those who desire to do wrong.
- The reason why some of our lives are so spiritually weak is simply because our love for Christ diminishes the effectiveness of the Holy Ghost, which is given to us.
- Our love and obedience empowers us with the comfort of the Spirit in every situation of our life.
- So, what will you give or surrender in exchange for your soul? Will it be a little pleasure; a little recognition; a little fame; a little popularity; a little compromise; a little here and a little there?
- Back to what the Lord said earlier, "Consider your ways." Living for God is more than about blessings and prosperity, but it involves righteousness, holiness, consecration, sanctification, and sacrifice.
- What you do now determines the strength of your relationship. God has already given us everything that pertain to life and godliness through the working of His Holy Spirit. But, it will do us no good if we never obey.