

TOPIC Priests & Kings (Part 7)

SPEAKER SP Daniel Foo

Living Righteously to be
Effective Priests & Kings

DATE

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19th and 20th
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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Righteousness is about having right standing with God, right believing and right living. Every disciple is to be a priest and king. SP Daniel Foo concludes the final part of the 'Priests & Kings' series driving home the point that being an effective priest and king is all about living righteously. As effective priests and kings, we continually reach out to the lost, resist the devil, rebuke sickness and take authority over our environment.

A COMPARISON

SP establishes our understanding of the Word by providing a comparison between what the old testament (OT) and the new testament (NT) say about living righteously.

	In the OT, <u>under the law</u> , living righteously (for Israel/the Jews) is a salvation issue. (Rom 10:5, Lev 18:5)	In the NT, <u>under grace</u> , our salvation (for the church and the Gentiles) is secured by believing and confessing Jesus as our Lord. (Rom 10:9-10)
1.	The person who does what is lawful and right, up to the point of death, shall live. (Eze 18:4-9)	 It is completely by the mercy and grace of God. (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 6:23)
2.	Continual exhortation to live and do right according to the laws of God. (Dan 4:27, Ps 15:1-2, Mal 3:3)	
3.	The one who lived right has standing with God. This means that God is on his side and God will hear his prayers. (Ps 18:20-24, Gen 15:6, Job 1:1, Gen 6:8-9)	

- The one who sins, up to the point of death, shall die. Every soul is accountable for himself and how he lives. (Eze 18:10-13)
- 5. The person's righteousness is for himself and will be judged accordingly. This righteousness cannot be transferred. (Eze 14:14,16,18,20, Eze 18:20)
- God desires for all to live righteously to be saved. (Eze 18:23,30,32)

2. This is the church age where all who call on the name of the Lord can be saved. (Rom 1:16, Rom 9-11, Eph 3:2-3)

WHY LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY?

1. It is about Living Victoriously

As NT believers, while living righteously is not a salvation issue, not doing so does carry its consequences. Living righteously is an issue of living victoriously and being overcomers. We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Doing so allows us to be effective priests and kings.

2. Have Favour from the Courts of Heavens

God is always righteous. The God that we worship is always simultaneously loving and kind, just and righteous (Jer 9:24). Our God also cannot be mocked – whatever a man sows, he will reap. Life is about choices and consequences. The verdicts from the Courts of Heavens are always aligned with the Will of the Father-God, the Word of Christ, and the ways and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. As we align our lives with the will of God and live righteously according to His ways, we will have verdicts from the Courts of Heavens in our favour (Matt 16:19 = 18:18). Likewise, when we pray, our prayers will not be hindered (James 5:16).

3. It is our Discipleship Journey

Part of our sanctification process as believers involves overcoming the evil one in our lives. We are able to overcome the daily temptations we face in the world and more importantly, our flesh - our self-life, especially specific inherited sins.

We must walk in the light. We walk in the:

- light of His Word (Ps 119:105)
- light of godly people (Matt 5:14) A lone-ranger Christian is vulnerable to fall.
- light of the Presence of the Lord Jesus (Jn 8:12)

As we walk in the light, we appropriate the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from exposed sin and unrighteousness in our lives (1 Jn 1:7-9). We will then be conscious to appropriate the blood for forgiveness, cleansing and covering. As such, the evil one has no hold over us (Eph 4:27, 1 Pet 5:8, Rev 12:11).

As we walk righteously, we will grow in increasing faith and boldness in God (Rom 1:17). Our lives will then present evidence of the fruits of righteousness:

i. from seeds sown and multiplied to us (2 Cor 9:10)

- ii. from obedience to the Word when rebuked, corrected and trained in righteousness (Heb 12:11). We must strive to have a conscience clear before God and men. The Scripture trains us in this (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- iii. when we seek and walk in the wisdom from above. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." James 3:17
- iv. when we grow in discernment (Phil 1:9-11)

4. Love and Pursue Righteousness

In this journey of pursuit of righteousness, God promises us that He would anoint us with the oil of gladness more than our companions (Heb 1:9).

"The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." Isa 32:17 When faced with challenges, a righteous believer can remain peaceful and calm.

Lawlessness is the opposite of living righteously. The message of the Gospel and the messenger should be one. A messenger seeking to live a righteous life would deliver a powerful message. God's word will not return to Him void.

CONCLUSION

God wants us to be established in righteousness. Jesus is our Jehovah Tsidkenu – "the LORD our righteousness". According to Isa 54:14, if we establish ourselves in Jesus, our righteousness, we shall be far from oppression, fear and terror. If we make the Most High our dwelling place, we will be protected. When we are living righteously, we will be bold in taking authority over every situation in our lives. God will consider us blameless when we consciously walk in the light and live righteously to bear fruit for every good work. After all, we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

QUESTIONS

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2. Reflect and share a recent demonstration of the evidence of the fruit of righteousness in your life.

3. What hinders you from establishing Jesus as Jehovah Tsidkenu – "the LORD (your) righteousness" – continually in your life? What are some specific steps you can take in this season to live righteously?