

RIGHTEOUS LIVING IN A PERVERSE ENVIRONMENT

*2 Corinthians 5:17,21; Philippians 2:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:12;
Genesis 5:21-24; 6:1-8; 17:1.*

The evidence of true salvation experience is living righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12). In the days of Enoch, Noah and Abraham, waywardness was the order of the day as in our present age. This is seen in various forms like unchecked immoral practices, festival and party celebrations, involvement in occultic clubs, examination malpractices in schools, compromising of scriptural truths and a host of others. Joseph lived a blameless life in Egypt (Genesis 39:7-9); Daniel in Babylon (Daniel 1:8); the Rechabites took their stand in the land where they were strangers (Jeremiah 35:1-19). No one can therefore excuse himself. It is God's perfect will for every Christian to serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life (Luke 1:74-75).

1. THE BASIS OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING

Job 14:4; Jeremiah 13:23; Acts 2:38; 3:19; Romans 10:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

No one can live and lead a righteous life because of the inherent nature of sin in man (Romans 3:23). Many people stand to justify themselves on the basis of their careful observance of some 'dos' and 'don'ts'. But all the righteousness of a natural unregenerate man fails to count in the presence of the righteous God. The Bible describes such self-righteousness as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). The Lord God is the source of righteousness (Psalm 145:17) and He is always willing to impart His righteousness unto man through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30). The foundation of righteous living is to have personal encounter with the righteous Christ (1 John 2:1). Paul was a religious and zealous man who upheld firmly the Jewish tradition, yet he became a different person when he met Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:15). To live a righteous life, there must be;

- i. Acknowledgement of one's sin (Psalm 32:5).
- ii. Confession of sins (Proverbs 28:13).
- iii. Repentance from sins (Acts 3:19; 2:38).
- iv. Saving faith in Christ (Matthew 26:28; Romans 10:10).

2. THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLY LIVING

Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:15,16; Matthew 5:48; Deuteronomy 30:6.

God's highest desire for man is to be partakers of His holiness (1 Peter 1:15,16). God will never commit any impracticable venture into His children. Righteous living is possible no matter how corrupt the environment may be. The Holy Spirit reveals that righteous living is a call that must be needed. (1 Thessalonians 4:3,7). God made adequate provision for our righteousness through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross (Hebrews 13:12). Therefore, there should be a strong desire on the part of every Christian to be a recipient of the righteousness of God through Christ. Jesus equally promised us divine strength and enabling grace to possess and retain this precious gift of God's righteousness (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

3. BRIGHTENING THE DARK CORNER

*Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:13-16; 13:43; Psalm 92:12; 1 Peter 2:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 2:10.*

The white lily grows up from the midst of dirty mud and yet there is no stain on it. Christian corpses can grow in this polluted world yet without spots on their lives (Romans 12:1-2). It is our privilege to be totally separated from the evil of this world. The saints of old obtained and maintained God's holiness all around them no matter the prevailing perversion of their days (Hebrews 11:13-16). This is our generation, the biblical standard of true righteousness (Isaiah 62:10). God is able to keep you from falling till the very end of your Christian race as your mind to be faithful (James 1:27; Jude 24).