

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-0963

The Kingdom of Our Lord #3. Righteousness & Justice

January 20, 2009

Just as love is the foundation and the sum of God's law, so are righteousness and justice the foundation of the throne of our Lord. All three are intertwined, for righteousness and justice are meted out as an act of love. If you love, you will act righteously in all your dealings, and you will be just in all your ways.

As Christians, we know that we have an imputed righteousness not based on the law but on faith. This was a revelation to Paul when his eyes were opened to the risen and glorified Christ. Paul sought to **be found in him** (Christ), **not having a righteousness of mine own, even that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith** (Philippians 3:9 ASV). According to Paul, Christ became to us righteousness so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21). We could say this is an objective truth for all believers, the ones justified by faith in Christ. Justification pertains to Passover, the applying of the blood.

However, it seems that many Christians seem to stop at this point as they fail to see the need to actually be righteous in their actions, that is, to actually manifest the righteousness of Christ in their dealings with one another and the world. Thus, many who call themselves Christians are really not much different in their outward actions than those who are in and of the world system. It is as if they have remained at Passover (justification with an imputed righteousness) and have not progressed to Pentecost (sanctification where practical righteousness is worked out), which means that they will not be readied for Tabernacles (glorification, when righteousness is taught to the nations) as the new age commences.

As stated in issue #03-0902, January 5, 2009, *Babylonian Leaders are Smart*, we have been trained to think like Babylonians. Consequently, unrighteousness and injustice are interwoven in our thinking. Consider the so-called justice system of the US in our day; it is anything but just in its judgments, for it is filled with all sorts of partiality and totally ignores restitution to the victim and restoration of the criminal. See issue #02-0708, October 9, 2007, *He Shall Make Full Restitution*.

Many preachers speak of bringing kingdom principles into every aspect of government, business, and society, and yet, they fail to see that the foundation of the kingdom of this world, which is called mystery Babylon, is unrighteous and unjust. It cannot be cleaned up; it must be replaced.

Well, it is imperative that we understand that the foundation of the throne of our Lord is righteousness and justice. When the kingdom of our Lord begins to overtake the nations, righteousness and justice will be the standard and will be worked out in very practical ways in accord with divine law.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You. (Psalm 89:14 NASB)

(1) The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. (2) Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. (Psalm 97:1-2 NASB)

We see God's heart early on with the life of Abraham, the father of faith and of the nations.

“For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” (Genesis 18:19 NASB)

We also see God’s heart to have kings that administer justice and righteousness.

So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people. (2 Samuel 8:15 NASB)

“Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” (1 Kings 10:9 NASB)

Now, what are righteousness and justice? Simply, **righteousness** is doing things the Lord’s way. **The ways of the Lord are right, and the just men shall walk in them** (Hosea 14:9). Righteousness can also be described as **right-wise behavior**. **Justice** speaks of **impartiality** and **true equity** according to God’s law, not man’s law; it is impartial and right. For this reason, we must have His laws put into our minds and written on our hearts (Hebrews 8:10). How else will we know the right and just ways of the Lord? However, the challenge we face in our day is to put off the mind of Babylon and put on the mind of Christ. We need to learn and apply righteousness and justice in this day in order to prepare the way for the Lord and His kingdom that is to transform the nations in the next eon. We must not compromise righteousness and justice, even as the systems around us demand that they be compromised. To do this, we need the wisdom of God and instruction by the spirit of God through His word. Consider the opening lines of Proverbs: **(1) The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: (2) to know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, (3) to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity** (Proverbs 1:1-3 NASB).

The fact of the matter is that there is not much righteousness and justice in the corrupt systems that are ruling and directing our lives. They are based on the failed wisdom of man. Corruption is so rampant that one would be hard pressed to know where to begin to expose it. The Lord’s righteousness is absent from the many things that we touch every day. So-called justice in our day is often prejudicial and selectively beneficial. It is so corrupt that criminals become victims and victims become criminals.

Further, man’s ways are often based on the many making sacrifices for the few who are in control, which includes the wealthy; but this is not the Lord’s way, for **to do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice** (Proverbs 21:3 NASB).

But this is all about to change as the kingdoms or nations of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. A day is coming soon in which **justice (will) roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream** (Amos 5:24 NASB). In that day, the earth will be full of His lovingkindness, and this will be manifested in righteousness and justice.

(4) For the word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness. (5) He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD. (Psalm 33:4-5 NASB)

In the day of Christ, the Lord will betroth Himself to His people that are chosen to rule and reign with Him for 1,000 years, and this betrothal will be in righteousness and in justice.

(19) “I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, (20) and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.” (Hosea 2:19-20 NASB)