

## "To Be Or Not"

Matthew 3: 1 - 3  
December 1, 2010

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20)*

### The Lord Jesus Himself Has Told Us That True Righteousness Is Not A Ritual But A Nature, (Chpt. 3 - 12)

- Section 1: A Nature Of True Righteousness Has Been Displayed, (Chpt. 3 - 4)
  - True righteousness as a nature is displayed in genuine repentance, (Chpt. 3)
    - Genuine repentance has always been commanded of God, (vs. 1 - 3)
      1. Genuine repentance has always been declared as necessary for deliverance, (vs. 1)
        - ✚ God has always appointed the messengers who call for repentance, (vs. 1a); *"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. " (John 1:6-7)*
        - ✚ God has always empowered the messengers who call for repentance, (vs. 1b); *"What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, " 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' " (Matthew 11:9-10)*
      2. Genuine repentance has always been commanded because God's presence is imminent, (vs. 2)
        - ✚ God's presence commands purity among His people, (vs. 2a); *"Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot— they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. " (Luke 17:26-30)*
        - ✚ God's presence is not far removed but imminently near, (vs. 2b); *"Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. " (Luke 10:9-12)*
      3. Genuine repentance has always been foretold as the mark of the children of God, (vs. 3)
        - ✚ The children of God are materially consumed with the Lord's kingdom, (vs. 3a); *"But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Luke 5:8)*
        - ✚ The children of God are continually expectant of the Lord's presence, (vs. 3b); *"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." (Isaiah 57:15)*
        - ✚ The children of God are intentionally focused on the Lord's requirements, (vs. 3c); *"Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence. Indeed, he shall turn his insolence back upon him. Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found. "Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle. " (Daniel 11:18-20)*

- Genuine repentance has never been an entitlement, (vs. 4 - 10)
- Genuine repentance has to be the only standard of measure, (vs. 11 - 12)
- True righteousness as a nature is displayed in faithful obedience, (Chpt. 4)
- Section 2: A Nature Of True Righteousness Is Promoted By Formative Discipline, (Chpt. 5 - 7)
- Section 3: A Nature Of True Righteousness Must Be Applied, (Chpt. 8 - 9)
- Section 4: A Nature Of True Righteousness Is Divinely Expected, (Chpt. 10 - 12)