

“Tried & True”

Matthew 4: 1 - 4

January 5, 2011

- Section 1: A Nature Of True Righteousness Is Has Been Displayed, (Chpt. 3 – 4)
 - True righteousness as a nature has been displayed in the faithful obedience of Christ, (Chpt. 4)
 1. Obedience that knows and trusts the word of God despite temptations in real-life needs, (vs1 – 4)
 - God’s word demonstrates that there are times of “wilderness” by God’s design, (vs. 1a); *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)*
 - God’s word tells us that in those times we can expect temptation, (vs. 1b); *“For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18)*
 - God’s word shows us that prayer & fasting are necessary for protection from temptation, (vs.2a); *““And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ” (Matthew 6:16–18)*
 - ✚ Protection that is developed in disciplined commitment, (vs. 2b)
 - ✚ Protection from our natural desires that will be strongly present, (vs. 2c)
 - God’s word warns us that temptation is not “philosophical” but literal, (vs. 3); *“that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. ” (1 Thessalonians 3:3–5)*
 - ✚ Satan is the one who purposefully works to cause us to sin, (vs. 3a.1)
 - ✚ Satan is the one who is knowingly allowed to pursue his temptations, (vs. 3a.2)
 - ✚ Satan is the one who calls into question God’s sovereignty, (vs. 3b)
 - ✚ Satan is the one who prompts us to focus on our temporal condition, (vs. 3c)
 - God’s word instructs us that it is the only source of life worthy of pursuit, (vs. 4); *“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” (Deuteronomy 8:3)*
 - ✚ God’s word confronts the frailty of our natural condition, (vs. 4a)
 - ✚ God’s word reveals the true nature of living, (vs. 4b); *“You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ” (Malachi 3:9–11)*

2. Obedience that knows and trusts the decrees of God despite temptations in real-life circumstances, (5 - 7)
3. Obedience that knows and trusts the glory of God despite temptations in real-life worship, (8 - 11)
4. Obedience that

“To Be Or Not”

Matthew 3 - 12

“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 Is Has Been Displayed, (Chpt. 3 - 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)