

Title: The Righteous and the Wicked

Scripture: Psalms 34:19-22

Series: Topical

1. Introduction:

- a. Today we compare and contrast the righteous and the wicked.
 - i. By righteous, we mean those who have come to God through the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Those whose sins are forgiven and, because Christ's righteousness has been imputed into their account, find themselves before the eternal God as never having sinned. The perfection of Christ makes them adopted children of God.
 - ii. By wicked, we mean those who have never come to God through the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Their sins are ever-present before them, and on the day of judgment, they will be found lacking. They will have to pay for their sinful living through eternal punishment.
- b. Now, we know that all men and women fall into one of these categories. You today are either righteous or wicked according to the judgment of heaven. You are either righteous in Jesus Christ or wicked because you have refused His Lordship.
- c. The Psalmist compares the present state of these two types of people and their future spiritual state. We would be wise to heed the Word of God today.

2. Verse 19: The Earthly State of the Righteous: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

a. The Psalmist begins with the thought that **many are the afflictions of the righteous**.

i. The righteous suffer much in this world.

Throughout the ages, and even today, we have witnessed the great suffering of the church of God. The people of God suffer because the world and Christianity are not compatible.

1. The world serves itself, and therefore it is in bondage to the enemy of our souls.

2. The righteous serve the Lord, and therefore, they are in loving bondage to the Savior.

ii. Because of this, we are repeatedly warned in the Scriptures to expect great suffering for the cause of Christ.

1. **Matthew 5:11-12** “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. **John 15:18-19** “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- b. The thought expressed in this verse is simple. The Christians will suffer greatly and have very little to comfort them in this world. Beloved, we must accept this as our lot.
- i. Jeremy Burrough's book, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*, states the following: The little that a Christian may have is just a first installment, guaranteeing that the rest will follow, of all the glory that is reserved for him.
 - ii. A Christian has the dew of God's blessing in more than just good things. Even in the evils that come to a Christian, he can see love. He can enjoy the sweetness of love in his misfortunes as well as in his blessings. The truth is that the hardships of God's people come from the same eternal love that sends them blessings.
- c. Beloved, we must remember that our Lord Jesus suffered **many afflictions** from this world. And it was through these afflictions that our Lord was highly exalted.
- i. The Lord Jesus Christ is the exceptionally righteous one.
 - ii. His afflictions were many, which he endured from men, from the devil, and God himself.
 - iii. We also note that many were the afflictions of his body when He was beaten, scourged, and crucified.
 - iv. Many were the afflictions of his soul when he bore the sins of his people, endured the wrath of God, and was ultimately forsaken by His Father.

1. None of these afflictions were for any sins that our Lord had committed. He patiently endured these affliction for the benefit of our souls.
 2. In the midst of His afflictions, our Lord understood that the final and best deliverance was just over the horizon.
 - a. In other words, He knew that he was about to go to the Father and be glorified anew.
 3. Christ was delivered and vindicated from all of His afflictions,
- d. It is true that all Christians are greatly afflicted, yet they too are promised great deliverance. The bible states that **the LORD delivers the righteous from all afflictions:**
- i. Just like Christ was delivered, the righteous will also be delivered.
 1. If not in this life, then in the eternal state.
 - a. In the eternal state, the righteous will be entirely delivered out of all their trials and sufferings. In that final state, the Christian will never experience the afflictions of this world again.
 - ii. Beloved, we are to learn that although many trials significantly afflict the Christians, yet they will never perish because of those afflictions.
 1. The righteous will be delivered from affliction by the power of God's grace.
 - a. **2 Timothy 1:8-9** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our

Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

3. Verse 20: He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.
- a. What is said here is true of Christ, who was a type of the Passover Lamb. He goes to the cross as the Lamb of God without any of His bones being broken.
 - i. Not one of Christ's bones was broken and He was delivered through the affliction of earthly suffering.
 - b. The bones of the Christian are all kept by the same God, and not one is broken without God's knowledge and will.
 - i. **Matthew 10:29-31** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (30) But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (31) Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.
 - ii. The bones of a righteous person are never broken but restored, perfect, and whole in the eternal state of the resurrection.
 - c. The Bible makes it clear that in order to afflict the believer; Satan has to ask for permission. However,

we know that what Satan intends for evil, our Lord purposes for His good.

- i. **Luke 22:31-32** “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, (32) but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

d. Beloved, we are secure in our Lord. The afflictions of this world can do nothing to stop the coming glory of the eternal state. Let us endure with earthly reproach, assured of better things to come. Let us follow the example that the saints of old have left for us.

- i. **Hebrews 11:36-38** Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. (37) They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— (38) of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

4. Verse 21: The Condition of the Wicked: Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

a. **Affliction will slay the wicked:**

- i. The righteous do not need to return harm for harm. The wicked destroy themselves.

1. **Proverbs 1:18-19** but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. (19) Such are the ways of

everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

2. The meaning of our passage is that the evil the wicked designed against the righteous shall return and fall upon their heads, to their ruin.

b. and those who hate the righteous will be condemned:

- i. or shall be found guilty or damned
- ii. All wicked men hate the righteous because they do not participate in their wickedness. On the day of judgment, these men will be found guilty. They will be convicted of all their hateful words that they have spoken against Christ and his people, be pronounced guilty, and be punished with everlasting destruction.

1. **John 3:17-21** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (21) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be

clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

- c. The wicked are dead men walking. They live and seem to enjoy this world but their destiny is sealed. They care the penalty of eternal death. Their suffering is very real.
5. Verse 22: The Eternal State of the Rigteous: The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.
- a. **The LORD redeems the life of his servants:**
 - i. Our Scripture makes it abundantly clear that it is the Lord that redeems. Our Lord Jesus has obtained redemption through His precious blood. This redemption granted to the people of God brings forth forgiveness of sin, justification, and sanctification. Our Lord continually sanctifies His people to bring them into the eternal state of blessedness.
 - 1. **Romans 8:28-30** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

b. none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned:

i. The people of God will never be found guilty. They are justified from all their sins through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

1. Oh, Beloved, what great blessings are our in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Beloved, love Him!

ii. Having believed in Jesus and been forgiven, the righteous are saved eternally.

1. **Mark 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

iii. The righteous shall stand at Christ's right hand, be received into his kingdom and glory, and be forever with him. They do not need to fear condemnation.

1. **Romans 8:33-39** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. (34) Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." (37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him

who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Mark these truth in your bible!
3. Committ them to memory!
4. We are Justified in Jesus Christ. We are the righteous of God!

6. Gospel Call

7. Benediction:

- a. **Matthew 13:43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Public Reading of Scripture John 15:18-25