

A Righteousness That Surpasses

By Mike Riley

From a study of the gospels, we learn that the scribes and Pharisees thought of themselves as being the standard of measurement for righteous living. They were the champions of orthodoxy, the defenders of the faith, and the epitome of all righteousness. Because of their pious attitude, they actually thought that no group of people living could be better spiritual examples than themselves (cf. Luke 18:9-14).

However, Jesus told his disciples:

“unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20 NASB).

Christ condemned the hypocritical attitude of the scribes and Pharisees because their righteousness was merely an outward show — not reflecting the true attitude of their heart (cf. Matthew 23). Even though they were following the Law of Moses in their teaching, they were disregarding the Law regarding their actions (Matthew 23:2-3). Translated in today’s English, we would say, “Do as I say, but not as I do.”

While following the Law of Moses required refraining from an action, i.e., “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13). Jesus went further, addressing the core of the problem — the thoughts behind the action, when He presented the idea of our not even being angry with our brother (Matthew 5:22). Since murder is a premeditated act brought about by the thoughts and intents of our heart, if we are never angry at our fellow man, we will never be guilty of murder.

Moses’ law stated: “You shall not commit adultery” (Matthew 5:27). Again, Jesus addressed the motives of the heart, teaching that if an individual even lusted after a woman in his mind (heart), that individual was just as guilty of adultery as the individual who committed the very act.

Thus, the law of Christ demands more of us than the law of Moses, because it demands a change in our thought patterns (cf. Matthew 15:15-20; Mark 7:17-23; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

When we align our thinking with Christ’s thinking (1 Corinthians 2:16; cf. Matthew 11:29; John 15:15; Philippians 2:5; 1 Peter 2:21), we will not commit those acts that are in violation of God’s word — our righteousness will thus surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees.



STERLINGTON
Church of Christ



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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

3/12/23

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements-Todd Chapman **Opening prayer-** Ronnie Hayes
Communion- Wayne Fowler **Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller

March 19th

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening Prayer-** Jerry McDonald
Communion- Todd Chapman **Closing Prayer-** Matthew Fricke

Announcements

—**Question & Answer Series: March 5th** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

—**SCOC Ladies Day:** Our congregation is hosting a Ladies Day on May 6th. Save the date! More details will be announced soon.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Please Pray For:

Terry Wagner-Matthews, Nyle Field, Debbie Grice, Joyce Moses, Brad Farrington, Julie Strickland, Joanne Randolph, Carolyn Jones, Gracie Aaron, Billy Wayne Crain, Lucille Hollis.

Bereaved: Families of Teresa Moody, Lois Hogan, Roosevelt Rogers, Bob Teague, Lynn Walker.

Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Max Aubel, Tricia Muse, Donna Head, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr.



March birthdays

8 - Miriam Russell
18 - Debra Dehart
18 - Billy Granger
18 - Lyle Russell
21 - Sadie Kate Scharf
25 - Nelia Chapman
29 - Sharon Ross White
29 - Chellie Wells

March anniversaries

9 - Tommy and Glenda Wells

