

## Let Us Always Remember to Pursue Righteousness

(Matthew 5:6)

### Introduction:

1. This morning we examined 5 things that God's people must always remember.
2. #3 on the list: "Let us always remember the Words of Christ."
3. This evening our lesson is based on the Lord's Words in the 4<sup>th</sup> Beatitude (Matthew 5:6).
4. As a result of studying this Beatitude, "let us always remember to pursue righteousness."
5. Let us begin by considering . . .

### Discussion:

- I. SOME GENERAL MATTERS PERTAINING TO "RIGHTEOUSNESS"
  - A. Righteousness: "integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting"
  - B. On his own, man is not righteous (Romans 3:10).
  - C. The Scriptures show how and when God makes us righteous (Romans 6:3-4, 17-18).
  - D. After we become His children, God wants us to live righteously (Titus 2:11-12).
  - E. Those who live righteously enjoy great blessings, including:
    1. the necessities of life (Matthew 6:33)
    2. assurance that our prayers are answered (James 5:16b; 1 Peter 3:12)
    3. eternal life (Matthew 25:46).
  - F. According to these passages, "being filled with righteousness" is extremely important.
- II. HOW TO BE FILLED WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS
  - A. We must not be filled with our own righteousness.
    1. Our righteousness must please God (Matthew 5:19-20).
    2. Self-righteousness is condemned in the Bible (Matthew 9:10-13).
  - B. We must "hunger" and "thirst" after righteousness.
    1. Hunger: "to seek with earnest desire"
    2. Thirst: "to desire earnestly"
    3. The tense of these words is important.
      - a. The tense indicates present and continuous action -- "they which are hungering and thirsting."
      - b. In essence, Jesus was teaching: "Blessed are those who are craving and longing after righteousness, for they shall be filled with righteousness" (see 1 John 3:7).
    4. Jesus set the proper example for us to follow (John 4:34).
  - C. The first 3 Beatitudes will motivate us to hunger and thirst after righteousness.
    1. A person who is "poor in spirit" is aware of his unrighteousness.
    2. A person who "mourns" regrets his condition, and he has a constant desire to improve.
    3. A person who is "meek" is submissive to God and His will.
    4. These 3 Beatitudes will lead us to crave and long after righteousness.
- III. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS THAT WILL HELP US
  - A. Study and meditate upon God's Word regularly (1 Peter 2:2).
  - B. Pray regularly (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
  - C. Worship regularly and associate with Christians (Acts 2:42).
  - D. Stay focused (Philippians 3:13-15).

### Conclusion:

1. After Jesus gave the Beatitudes in His Sermon, He said that His followers are "*the salt of the earth*" and "*the light of the world*" (Matthew 5:13-16).
2. This is not accomplished by accident.
3. "Let us always remember to pursue righteousness."