

Rejoicing In Righteousness

Psalm 5

(Zeke Flores, From outline by Steven Harper)

Intro: *It has become commonplace for people to indulge in whatever fleshly desire they seek.*

- A. People would do even more if they thought there would be no consequences.
 - 1. Epitomized in slogan “*What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!*”
 - 2. People flock to “Vegas” in their hearts looking for self-pleasure without guilt.
- B. But not everyone is like that.
 - 1. Some seek good instead of evil, spirituality instead of sin.
 - 2. Their ambition is to please God knowing there will be a judgment - **2 Cor 5:9-10**
- C. In Psalm 5, we read of a man who rejoiced in righteousness rather than wallowing in self-indulgence.
 - 1. He contrasts the ways of the wicked with his own and pleads with God to notice.

I. The Psalmist’s Desire:

- A. The God would hear his prayer - **vv 1-3**
 - 1. He makes an urgent plea to God. He asks God to **hear** him, to **weigh** his plea seriously, and to **answer**. He has confidence that God will.
 - 2. He directs his prayer to One whom he respects. He calls Him “*my God*” and “*my King*” but he also calls Him by name (vs 3 - LORD: Yahweh) indicating closeness and confidence.
- B. That he would worship God - **vv 7-8**
 - 1. He reverences God and desires to show it
 - a. **Psa 122:1; 42:1-4**
 - 2. He desired God to take the lead in his life - **vs 8**
 - a. He wanted to establish God’s righteousness, not his own - **Rom 10:1-3**

II. The Way of the Unrighteous:

- A. Unrighteous Words - **vs 9**
 - 1. They not only lie, they flatter probably to present themselves in a better light.
 - a. “*There is no truth in their mouth*” (ESV) indicates the extent to which they are under the power of sin.
 - b. No wonder the Bible condemns lying - **Rev 21:8**
 - 2. The psalmist attributes it to the destruction that is in their “inward parts”
 - a. **Matt 12:34-35**
 - 3. This way only leads to death (“open grave” - vs 9)
- B. Unrighteous Lives - **vs 10**
 - 1. Certainly those who speak such destructive words live destructive lives!
 - a. He asks God to “hold them guilty” because they *were* guilty! They did not think of sin as an offense to God, but rather as something which fulfilled a moment of self-pleasure and they clamored for more - **Eph 4:19**
 - 2. Their lives were sin-filled because they lived in a constant state of rebellion against God.
 - a. The battle between inward morality was being lost and they showed it in the way they lived.
 - b. **Rom 8:6-8; Gal 5:17**
 - c. Though they *could* submit to God if they wanted to, they preferred not to.

III. The Way of Righteousness:

- A. No pleasure in wickedness - **vs 4**
 - 1. It’s no surprise that a holy and righteous God would hate wickedness. Should come as no surprise that He won’t tolerate it in those who call themselves His children.
 - a. **Rom 2:1-3**
 - 2. God’s true children see the scourge of sin for what it is and they work to uphold the righteousness of God in all they do.

B. No pleasure in wicked people - vv 5-6

1. There are some things that God *hates*. Wickedness and wicked people are in that category.
 - a. **Psalm 11:5**
 - b. This is not a contradiction that God is love (1 John 4:8), but a natural consequence of those who hate Him!
2. Knowing that these are set for destruction, the child of God will align himself with those who also love Him.
 - a. **2 Tim 2:19-22**

IV. The Blessings of Righteousness: - 11-12

- A. The follower of righteousness has reason to rejoice!
 1. God defends us, protects us against the onslaught of the world and its way.
 2. He prepares for us a song even in the midst of adversity.
 3. He blesses us with benefits that the unrighteous could never understand!
 4. He “surrounds us with favor” - While the world despises us and hurls abuse at us, God smiles upon us and preserves His greatest gifts for us!
- B. Because of these and so much more, we can extol along with all the saved: **Psalm 103:1-5**

Conc: *Whoever you are and wherever you may be in life, you can see yourself somewhere in this psalm:*

- A. Are you like the righteous man who seeks the Lord and His righteousness, or like the wicked who rebel against God and lives with the burden of sin?
 1. Do you pray with fervency believing that God will hear and answer?
 2. Do you see God as your King, your *only* God?
 3. Do you seek to worship Him or is it weariness to you?
 4. Do you walk in righteousness or the way of the world?
 5. Are you trustworthy in word and deed? Does your speech build up or tear down?
 6. Have you submitted to God or are you in rebellion against Him?
 7. Do you hate sin and abhor those who love it or do you fellowship sin and make sinners your closest friends?
- B. The choice is yours, the cure is God.
- C. **INV**