1. **Introduction:** 
   1. **Living in trying times as man seeks to continually change the standard of what is “right”.**
   2. **Jesus did not come to correct the Old Law but establish His covenant, His rule and His standard of righteousness. (Luke 16:16)**
2. **Jesus’ Standard Of Righteousness**
   1. **Jesus on *“righteousness”* – we must…**
      1. **Hunger for it.** (Matthew 5:6)
      2. **Be willing to suffer for it.** (Matthew 5:10)
      3. **Practice it for the right reason.** (Matthew 6:1)
      4. **Seek it above all else.** (Matthew 6:33)
   2. **Three ways:**
      1. **Right standard of thinking & behavior to please God –** (Proverbs 8:20;   
         Matthew 5:20; Acts 24:25; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 3:16; 1 John 3:7)
      2. **Right standing before God – legally, to be declared right.** (Romans 3:21-26; 10:10; 1 Corinthians 1:30)
      3. **Right relationship with God – forgiveness, fellowship, reconciled.** (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:6-9)
3. **How is our righteousness to surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees?**
   1. **Not our own.** (Romans 10:3; Philippians 3:9; Jeremiah 10:23)
   2. **It is personal**. (Ezekiel 18:20; 14:14)
   3. **Not hypocritical.** (Matthew 23:1-4)
   4. **Submission to the Lord’s standard of righteousness in His kingdom.** (Isaiah 55:6-9)
   5. **Revealed in God’s word**. (Romans 1:17; Titus 2:12)
      1. It’s **eternal and unchanging and always relevant**. (Luke 21:33; Jude 3;   
         1 Peter 1:24-25)
      2. It’s **understandable**. (Ephesians 5:17) But why doesn’t everyone?   
         (Matthew 13:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3)
      3. It’s to **be applied consistently**. (Acts 10:34-35)
   6. **Defined by Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:21-48… as Jesus addresses His standard of righteousness in His kingdom in regards to:**
      1. **Anger** (vs. 21-26)
      2. **Lust** (vs. 27-30)
      3. **Marriage** (vs. 31-32)
      4. **Oaths**/**commitment** (vs. 33-37)
      5. **Revenge** (vs. 38-42)
      6. **Love** (vs. 43-48)
      7. ***“And things like these…”* (Galatians 5:21, 23)**
4. **How To Be Made Righteous**
   1. **No one is righteous on our own.** (Romans 3:10)
   2. **We are made perfect and righteous through the blood of Christ by faith.** (Hebrews 12:23; Galatians 3:11; Revelation 7:14; Mark 16:15-16)
   3. **Requires newness of life**. (Romans 6:3-4)
   4. **Through prayers to God to acknowledge sin and repent.** (James 5:16; Acts 8:24)