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)
3. **How is our righteousness to surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees?**
	1. **Defined by Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:21-48… as Jesus addresses His standard of righteousness in His kingdom in regards to:**
		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; Matthew 13:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3)
		3. It’s to **be applied consistently**. (Acts 10:34-35)
4. **Jesus Dealing With Lust**
	1. ***“You have heard*** *that it was said,* ***'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY****’*…” (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18)
	2. *“…****but I say to you*** *that* ***everyone who looks at a woman with lust*** *for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (cf., Exodus 20:17)*
	3. **What is lust?**
		1. “epithumeoo” – “**to set the heart upon**, i.e., **long for** (rightfully or otherwise)” (Strong)
		2. Not necessarily an evil thing: (**Matthew 13:17; 1 Peter 2:2; Luke 22:15)**
	4. **Jesus’ standard of righteousness begins long before the“act of adultery”.**
		1. Matthew 15:19, ***“out of the heart come adulteries”***
		2. Thus, the need to ***“watch over your heart with all diligence”* (Proverbs 4:23; Job 31:1; Psalms 101:3; 16:8 Romans 13:13-14)**
		3. What has **filled our hearts**? Any room for God’s word?(John 8:37)
		4. **The battle of the flesh vs. the spirit**. (Galatians 5:17)
	5. The battle of **the flesh vs. the spirit**. (Galatians 5:17) We can not do what we “please”. There are lessons to learn:
		1. **Learning to say “no”** (Matthew 16:24; Titus 2:11-12; Genesis 39:9-10).
			1. There are places we ought not to be at times we should not be there. (Proverbs 7:8-9)
		2. **Learning to say “yes”.** (2:Timothy 2:22; “*with those who call on the Lord*…”; cf., Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
		3. **Learning to be honest**. (Romans 13:13-14)
		4. “But I can handle it!”, or “It doesn’t bother me! (Proverbs 6:27)
	6. **How serious is the sin of lust?**
		1. **No sacrifice is too much to prevent the lust that would lead to adultery:**
			1. Tear out your eye… Cut off your right hand.
		2. **“*Better*” (NASU; ESV); “*Profitable*” (KJV; ASV)** (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23)
		3. “***Run in such a way***” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
		4. **What would tearing out your eye or cutting off your hand not address? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
	7. **The consequences:**
		1. ***“Go into hell****”* – **suffer** (go away/depart to) “**everlasting punishment**” (Strong).
		2. ***“Lose”*** – we’re to “lose” ourselves. (Matthew 10:39)
		3. **Who or what should we truly fear**? (Luke 12:4-5)
	8. **The cure?**
		1. Even before we apply Proverbs 4:23; Job 31:1 and Romans 13:13-14, **where is our focus and what is our mindset**? (Romans 8:5-13; 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3)
		2. Control **the mind**. (2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8; Proverbs 6:25-27)
		3. **Don’t go where temptation reigns!** (apply Romans 13:13-14; Job 31:1 &
		Proverbs 6:25-27)
		4. Consider the “***source”*** of our lusts? (James 4:1; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11)
		5. **Deny self**. (Titus 2:11-12; Galatians 5:16-17; Luke 9:23; cf., Hebrews 11:25)
		6. ***“Flee”*** and “***pursue”***. (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Corinthians 10:12-14)