**TRUTH – 16 - ABOUT SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

***LUKE 18:9-14***

**INTRODUCTION** – Jesus spoke this parable to those who were trusted in their own righteousness. There are many wonderful lessons we can learn from this parable and this lesson and it is my honest prayer if any of us is guilty of this sin we will repent and turn back to trusting in God and not our own righteousness.

If we become puffed up and arrogant we will leave the principles and patterns revealed to us in God’s word and seek to establish our own righteousness.

The Jews are a prime example – **ROM. 10:1-3** – Because they sought to establish their own righteousness they abandoned God and his righteousness. They had zeal to serve God, but it was not according to knowledge. Our zeal our service to God must be according to knowledge – **HOSEA 4:6** **– *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…”***  **JN. 8:32 – JN. 17:17** – Since we can know the truth today and it can set us free we must look into God’s word to study this important subject. The purpose of our lesson today is to examine the truth about self righteousness.

***SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS –***

1. **SELF IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD** –
2. **PROV. 3:1-7** – The self righteous man does not heed the advice of the wise man. He does not trust the Lord, instead he trusts himself. He refuses to acknowledge God because he sees himself as wiser than God. I.E. – **HEB. 10:25** – We know that God’s word says to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together and yet many go right ahead and do it anyway. When we forsake the assemblies we are trusting ourselves or the advice of others more than God’s instructions
3. **PROV. 14:21** – The self righteous despise their neighbors and they refuse to display mercy or compassion to others.
4. **2 TIM. 3:1-4** – The self righteous man is a lover of self and a despiser of those who do good.
5. **PHIL. 2:3-8** – Note what God’s word teaches in regard to the type of attitude we should possess. We should esteem others as better then ourselves. This is the example given to us by Christ that we should strive to imitate.
6. **PSA. 119:128-129** – We need to develop the attitude of the Psalmist toward the word of God that all his precepts are right.
7. **BLIND TO OUR OWN FAULTS** –
8. **MATT. 7:1-5** – We are very good when it comes to seeing the faults in others while completely overlooking faults in our lives. Jesus condemns the Pharisees not for judging but for their hypocritical judgment. They could see the speck in their brother’s eye very clearly but failed to see the plank in their own eye because they did not examine them selves.
9. **LUKE 18:11** – In our text the Pharisee prayed thus with himself. His prayer was not a prayer of humility (in regard to his own sins) but rather it was an announcement to God that he was thankful that he was not as other men (just a common sinner).
10. **1 JN. 1:5-9** – If our self righteousness blinds us to our own faults then we will never repent. If we say we have no sin then we deceive ourselves and we are guilty of lying about our own status in life.
11. **MATT. 23:23-28** – Jesus plainly tells the scribes and Pharisees they blinded them selves to their own mistakes. Jesus is not concerned with the outward appearance of righteousness, but with actually being righteous in his sight.
12. **2 COR. 13:5** – If we are to ever see our faults we must examine ourselves to the standard (the word of God) so we can see ourselves as we actually appear before God.
13. **LOST HUMILITY** **– LUKE 18:9-14**
14. **LUKE 17:10** – The self righteous likes to brag about all the work they do for the Lord. Even when we have done all that we are commanded to do we should recognize we have only done what was our duty to do.
15. **MICAH 6:8** – God spells out for his children his expectations. God expects us to walk humbly – do justly – and to love mercy.
16. **ACTS 20:16-19** – I.E. – Paul served the Lord with all humility of mind. Our attitude as we offer our service to God indeed matters.
17. **1 COR. 10:31-33** – This should be the goal of every Christian. That whatever I do will give glory to God.
18. **1 PET. 5:5-7** – If we are willing to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord then he will lift us up. We do not need to exalt ourselves as God is always willing to reward the humble.

**CONCLUSION** –

Do you trust in self more than God?

Are you quick to see the faults of others, but slow to see your own?

Have you lost your humility?

Turn to God today!!!