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 (legal) standing before God – to be declared right.** (Romans 3:21-26; 10:10)
      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); **It is personal**. (Ezekiel 18:20; 14:14); **Not hypocritical.** (Matthew 23:1-4); **Submission to the Lord’s standard of righteousness in His kingdom.** (Isaiah 55:6-9); **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; Matthew 13:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3)
      3. It’s to **be applied consistently**. (Acts 10:34-35)
   2. **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. **Jesus Dealing With Anger**
   1. *“****You have heard*** *that the ancients were told ‘****you******shall not commit murder****.’”*(Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)
   2. *“****But I say to you*** *that* ***everyone who is angry*** *with his brother shall be guilty before the court…”*
      1. The sin **begins in the heart** (Matthew 15:18-19; Proverbs 4:23) **long before any overt act**.
         1. Not **all anger**. (Ephesians 4:26-27) NKJV & KJV add *“without cause”*
   3. *“Whoever says to his brother, 'You* ***good-for-nothing*** *(Raca; ASV; NASB),' shall be guilty before the supreme court.”*
      1. **Useless or empty; “Without a brain”**
      2. Consequence? “***Guilty before the supreme court***”. (An offense worthy of answering to the Sanhedrin Council for)
   4. ***“Whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”***
      1. From the Greek word “moros” (where we get the English word “moron”).
      2. Viewing others **as morally deficient**. **Disparaging the souls of others**. Speaks to a persons’ “**worth**”.
   5. **The solution (or standard of righteousness) is to recognize the sin in our heart and seek reconciliation. When?**
      1. **Now!** (vs. 23-25; “…*quickly [w/o delay]*…”) (Ephesians 4:26; 1 John 3:11-17)
      2. **Unresolved conflicts can hinder our worship and service to God**. (1 Peter 3:7)
      3. What is needed?
         1. **Humility, love**. (Romans 12:18; Philippians 2:3-5)
         2. **Become as a child**… (Mark 10:15)
      4. **In the context?**
         1. The solution: “***Make friends*** *quickly with your opponent…*”
            1. “***Make friends***”, “***Come to terms***” (ESV); “***Agree with***” (ASV; NKJV)
            2. **To what extent**? (1 Corinthians 6:7)
   6. What if we don’t?
      1. **Possible consequences**?
         1. *“…hand you over to the judge…judge to the officer…thrown into prison…”*
         2. **Officer** – the one who exacts payment.
         3. **Debtors prison** – (Matthew 18:23ff)
      2. **Unforgiven/unrepentant sin** – a debt that must be paid.
5. **Flee & Pursue – (**Ephesians 4:31-32)
   1. **What are we to flee?** 
      1. Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and slander.
   2. **What are we to pursue?**
      1. Kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness.
6. **Applied to our relationship with God.**
   1. Are we angry with Him? (James 1:19-22)
   2. **Does God have something against us? Do we need to go to Him for reconciliation**? (Luke 15:18-21; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
   3. **Before it’s too late**… before there are eternal consequences. (Luke 13:24ff)