

## THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

### Psalm 119:137-144

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. Characteristics of God.
  - 1. What characteristic stands out to you?
  - 2. Do we think on His mercy and grace, love, power, holiness, etc.
- B. A Relationship with God.
  - 1. Throughout Psalm 119, the psalmist longs for a relationship with God.
    - a. This is based on a knowledge of God through His word.
    - b. He longs for God's Word to guide.
  - 2. On what is your relationship with the Lord based?
    - a. Is it based on your attendance or Bible knowledge?
    - b. Is it based on how "good" you are each day?

#### I. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

- A. God Is Righteous.
  - 1. Vs. 137, "*Righteous art Thou, O Lord, ...*".
    - a. This is not describing the actions of God, but His very being.
    - b. In Hebrew, righteous and faithful are very similar.
  - 2. Faithfulness and truthfulness is consistent with His nature and promises.
    - a. 1 Kings 8:56 – Solomon's dedication of the temple.
    - b. "*...not one word has failed of all His [God's] promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.*"
  - 3. The thought is that God is righteous – and man is not, Job 4:17.
  - 4. And because of God's righteousness, He expects His people to be righteous.
    - a. "*Be holy...*", Lev. 11:44 (cf. 1 Peter 1:16).
    - b. Romans 6:13
- B. Judgments of God.
  - 1. Vs. 137b, "*And upright are Your judgments.*"
  - 2. We will all stand before the throne of God, Romans 2:6.
    - a. It will not be guess work as to salvation.
    - b. We know the answer, because we know His righteousness.
    - c. Band contests – never sure how the judge will rule (subjective).
  - 3. God will judge according to His Word – which is righteous.
    - a. John 12:48, "*...the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*"
    - b. Not according to our judgments and desires.
- C. Testimonies [**Law**] of God.
  - 1. Vs. 138, "*You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness and exceeding faithfulness.*"
  - 2. God's law is righteous [right], Psalms 19:7-9.
  - 3. We don't have to worry about "changing" laws.
    - a. Perfect, sure, right, pure, true.
    - b. In our society, laws tend to change to fit our times and ways.
    - c. Sports games, "rules" change over time.
  - 4. God's ways stay the same.
    - a. What was wrong with Israel then – is still wrong today.
    - b. God is no shifting shadow, Jas. 1:17.
    - c. Hebrews 13:8, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, yes and forever.*"

D. God Is Eternal.

1. Vs. 142, *"Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness."*
2. Dynasties.
  - a. The Babylonian Empire – about 90 years.
  - b. The Ming Dynasty – about 276 years.
  - c. The Romans Empire – about 1500 years.
3. God is everlasting.
  - a. Isaiah 51:6-8
  - b. Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*

## II. MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

A. My Zeal.

1. Vs. 139, *"My zeal has consumed me, because my adversaries have forgotten Your words."*
  - a. Consumed is to be exhausted.
  - b. The psalmist is saying that my strength is gone, because....
2. Zeal for God's house, John 2:17 (cf. Psalms 69:9).
3. We grow tired, but is it because of zeal?
  - a. Galatians 6:9
  - b. 2 Peter 3:14
  - c. Philippians 3:9-10

B. My Love.

1. Vs. 140, *"Your word is very pure, therefore Your servant loves it."*
2. Do we have a true love for the Lord?
  - a. Psalms 119:10-11
  - b. Philippians 1:9 – Paul's prayer for the church.
  - c. 1 John 5:3 (love for God, NIV).

C. My Delight.

1. Vs. 143b, *"Your commandments are my delight."*
2. Is our delight in the Lord?
  - a. Psalms 37:4
  - b. Psalms 40:8
  - c. Matthew 5:6

D. My Understanding.

1. Vs. 144b, *"Give me understanding that I may live."*
2. Our daily prayer should be to know God's righteousness.
  - a. Ephesians 3:14-19
  - b. Colossians 1:9-10
  - c. 1 John 5:20-21
3. Not only to "know" His righteousness, but to have the same.