



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Keep Your Focus on God!

Scripture: Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Upon All the Possession of Mankind – God’s Claims First! To seek “first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” means to turn to Him first for help, to fill your thoughts with His desires, to put on His character for your life, and to serve and obey Him in everything. Moreover, the kingdom of God is a moral and spiritual kingdom that is past, present, and future where God reigns in our hearts through Jesus Christ. It is a heavenly kingdom, which is above all principalities and powers with Jesus Christ as King.

The one common identifier among the members of the kingdom is that they had been born again of the water and the Spirit. Jesus told Nicodemus “*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*” (John 3:3, 5).

Jesus prepared His disciples by teaching and modeling the principles of the kingdom of God: Through **prayer** (Matthew 6:9-13), a place where we are invited to meet with a righteous God. In **humility** (Matthew 18:1, 4), by foot washing (John 13:4-5) and forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22). We must display the same gracious attitude toward others as God has shown and continues to show toward us. In **self-sacrifice**, the efficacy of John the Baptist. His primary purpose was to bear witness to Christ, the Light of the world. **Riches and true riches**, young man (Matthew 19:16, 21-22). There are inconceivable riches in Christ alone. Nothing can compare to the love, the joy, the hope, and the peace He pours out upon us through the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The **benefits of sacrifice**, there is a hundredfold reward awaiting those who had left loved ones for His name’s sake, and everlasting life in store for those who had given up the pleasures of this world for His cause. **His divinity** (Matthew 16:13, 15-16), which Peter expressed was based on the irrefutable evidence of what he had seen and heard.

God's righteousness means that He is perfectly just, holy, and fair in all His actions and decisions. In **Psalm 145:17**, David states, "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." True righteousness is possible for mankind, but only through the cleansing of sin by Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We have **no** ability to achieve righteousness in and of ourselves. We possess the righteousness of Christ, because “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*” (2 Corinthians 5:21). One of the benefits of salvation is that you get endued with the righteousness of God. We have received this precious gift of righteousness from the God of all mercy and grace.

3 Things to Know about the Righteousness of God: **(1)** The righteousness of God is not earned, it is given through exchange - Christ takes on our sin, in fact he became our sin and in exchange for our sin we receive his righteousness. **(2)** The righteousness of God is not brought; it is paid for (Romans 5:9). **(3)** The righteousness of God is not temporary, it is eternal.

Mankind, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority. Any of these can quickly bump God out of first place if you don't actively choose to give Him first place in every area of your life. If you do, all these things shall be added unto you the **temporal and spiritual Promises!** For when you do as He instructed, automatically, the things you desire are added to you. In other words, **the basic necessities of life—will be taken care of** and we need not worry about them (Matthew 6:25-34).

It took time for the disciples to become effective in the kingdom of God, and it takes time for you and me to fulfill God’s purpose in our lives. As the Lord reveals truth to us through His Word, as we learn of Him, we begin to understand His ways. A close association with Christ is still critically important.

People of God, as we begin this New Year of 2025 – “Keep Your Focus on God!”