**Seeking God’s Righteousness**

*Matthew 6:33*

**Introduction**

1. What does it mean to seek God’s righteousness?
2. What is righteousness?
3. How do we seek it?
4. What is Righteousness?

* Dikaiosunē – the character or quality of being right or just (Vine).
  + God is by nature righteous – Psalm 48:10; 50:6
    - God is righteous in that He can do nothing wrong due to His nature.
    - God is righteous in that He must judge rightly (cf. Psalm 19:9).
      * How can He remain righteous without destroying man? – Romans 3:21-26
        + How can could God pass over the sins previously committed and justify those who had sinned?
        + God is righteous – meaning when sin is committed He must deal rightly, or justly, with that sin. *“The wages of sin is death” – Romans 6:23*.
        + God remains righteous in that He set forth Christ as a propitiation. Christ paid the price.
        + This satisfied the righteous indignation of God.
* To seek God’s righteousness is to pursue those things that are defined by God as righteous, and to pursue the avenue by which God counts man as righteous. 🡪
  + This requires a knowledge of God – Romans 10:1-4
    - The Jews were seeking righteousness in the law.
    - This was not what God defined as righteous, and the law was not God’s plan for man to become righteous.
      * They were ignorant – without knowledge – of God’s righteousness.
      * What they thought was righteous was in fact unrighteous.
    - It was through Jesus (v. 4).
      * Romans 1:16-17
        + The righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel!
        + To seek God’s righteousness is to seek the Gospel!

1. Seeking God’s Righteousness
2. Becoming righteous before God.

* God does not force man to accept the gift through His son. Rather, He offers it to those who would have faith (cf. Romans 3:26).
* Romans 4:3, 5, 20-22
  + Abraham was considered righteous before God because of His faith.
  + He believed God about the promise of his decedents.
* Romans 4:23-5:2
  + This was written so we might have a confidence of becoming just, or righteous, before God.
  + Notice – It is by grace and not merit. However, this gift is not forced upon anyone, but is made accessible by faith (5:2; 3:26).
* Faith is taking God at His word and doing what He commands – Romans 10:17; Hebrews 3:18-19
  + We hear the word of God and do what it says. Hence, faith comes by hearing.
  + The Hebrew writer used disobedience and unbelief synonymously.
  + Mark 16:16 – This is the avenue to righteousness before God.
    - This is taking God at His word and doing what He commands – Colossians 2:12

1. Continuing to seek His righteousness.

* Continue to seek those things that are defined by God as righteous.
* In our responsibilities toward…
  + His church…
    - Matthew 6:33 – Seeking His kingdom means submitting to His rule/authority.
    - Ephesians 5:22-24 – The church is supposed to be subject to Christ in EVERYTHING!
  + Ourselves…
    - Romans 12:1-2 – We must seek continually to live acceptably before God. This requires a transformation brought about by studying and living His word.
  + Others…
    - Ephesians 2:10 – God has created us as Christians to perform good works amongst each other. This is righteousness defined by God.
    - Galatians 6:9-10; Titus 3:8 – We must do good to all, but especially other Christians.

**Conclusion**

1. God defines righteousness.
2. In order to seek His righteousness we must follow His word.
3. This encompasses all of our duty as man – to be righteous before God.
4. Are you seeking His righteousness?