

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 9

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Proverbs 15:8-9

Related Passages: Proverbs 15:29; 21:3;
21:27; and 28:9

Sermon Date: November 25, 2007

Righteousness Is the basis for true Worship of the Lord.

Last week in our study, we looked at “trust” and we talked about trust as something that we earn from our peers, our families and friends by doing the right thing consistently and keeping our word and commitments, i.e. “doing what we say we will do.” This week we are looking at the theme of “righteousness” as the basis for true worship.

What is righteousness? As humans, if we can earn trust from our peers, friends and family for honoring our commitments and doing what is right, can we be considered righteous in the eyes of our friends, family and peers? Is that the same thing as we are talking about in this weeks theme? Romans 1:17 says that in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Who then is righteous amongst us? Why is it important to be righteous in God's eyes? How does one become righteous in God's eyes? These are all questions that we are going to explore in this weeks study

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p data-bbox="157 321 472 349">Key Verse Proverbs 15:8</p> <p data-bbox="289 350 340 375">(NIV)</p> <p data-bbox="102 376 508 488">15:8 The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.</p> <hr data-bbox="107 516 457 521"/> <p data-bbox="102 948 483 1036">15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p data-bbox="1150 183 1514 302">21:3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.</p> <p data-bbox="1150 545 1541 664">21:27 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable— how much more so when brought with evil intent!</p> <p data-bbox="1150 984 1554 1070">28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. **RIGHTEOUSNESS** — The theme of this weeks study is that “righteousness is the basis for true worship of the Lord”. To understand what the basis of true worship is, we must have an understanding of righteousness. What is righteousness? Consider Isaiah 11:1-9 and Deut 32:3-4.

5. **WORSHIP** — What is worship? How do you think God would describe worship from his perspective? Consider Romans 12:1 and John 4: 20-24

6. **WICKEDNESS** — How does the Lord regard those who are wicked or not righteous? (Consider Proverbs 15:8-9, 21:27 and 28:9)

7. **FAITH** — What is the role of faith in helping us to be seen as righteous in God’s view? Consider Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6.

8. **PRAYER** — Proverbs 15:8-9 speaks to us about the prayer of the righteous. What does prayer have to do with worshipping God? Consider James 5:13-16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

9. Who is righteous in God’s eyes? Consider Romans 3:20-26. Do you consider yourself righteous? On what basis?

10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 15:8

^{15:8} The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

Thus far in our study of Proverbs we have been focusing on having a proper reverence for our God who is sovereign, all knowing, wise beyond our imagination and trustworthy.

This week, we have been looking at righteousness and how that is essential to the true worship of God. God is a righteous God and his righteousness cannot tolerate sin. That is why he chose his one and only son, who was without sin to die for sinful man. God looks at believers in Christ and sees not our sinfulness but Christ's Righteousness. Praise God for his wisdom in developing a plan and bringing it to completeness so that we can be reconciled to him.

Have you been reconciled to God through acceptance of Jesus Christ as your own personal savior? If not now is the time. Just ask Jesus to forgive you of your disobedience to him, and ask him into your heart as your Lord and Savior right now.

You will then be able, through your belief in Jesus Christ as your savior, to be looked upon as righteous in God's eyes. Take time to ask Jesus into your heart right now. You will not regret it.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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