

Sermon Notes

January 5, 2020,

Getting Off to the "Righteous" Start

Psalm 112

Psalm 112 is an anonymously-authored beautiful praise song. It is reminiscent of Psalm 1, in which two very different ways to live are described... the righteous and the wicked. The song itself is a praise directed to God, who alone can make a person righteous. In particular, Psalm 112 is a detailed description of what righteousness is, and how the righteous person will choose to live. The Psalmist seems to indicate that the only other option is to choose wickedness.

1. Where can I find a righteous life...? Only God. (1-3)

A. Many people settle for what Jesus called self-righteousness, and the result is a lost and cold world.

1) Sometimes we are self-righteous in our flesh: humanism.

2) Sometimes we are self-righteous in our religion: hypocrisy.

B. Real righteousness is not a deed, it is first and foremost, a status offered as a gift of God (grace) by divine pardon... My only way to gain a right standing before God and a right way of thinking about life comes from the Lord! (Romans 3:21-24)

1) Fear the Lord

2) Delight in His commands (this is a blessed way to do life)

2. When I pursue a righteous life, amazing blessings flow out of my life to those in my wake. (4-5)

The righteous bring light into darkness (4)

The righteous bring grace and generosity into injustice (5, 9)

3. When I pursue a righteous life amazing benefits fill my life with joy! (6-11)

A life that is "Never moved," "not afraid," "steady"...!