

RESETTING THE SCENE

A study of True Righteousness



II TIMOTHY 3:1F

II Timothy 3:1f- You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. 2 For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them (NRSV)!

Arrogance: “proud” is *huperēphanos* (ὑπερηφανος), “to show above,” thus, speaks of one who shows himself to be above other people.



LUKE 18:9F

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Luke 18:9f- He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”



What does it mean to be righteous?



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- The NT word has its roots in the OT word “sadaqa.” It is not only the standard for man’s relationship to God, but also for his relationship with his fellows...it is even the standard for man’s relationship to the animals and to his natural environment.

- The righteous person is not the one who observes a particular code of ethics but rather a person granted a special relationship of acceptance in the presence of God. That relationship is maintained by acting in loyalty to the giver of the unearned status.



EXODUS 13:3

- Moses said to the people, “Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten.”



JOSHUA 24:16F

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- “Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”



What does it mean to be self-righteous?



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- In the Greek and Hellenistic world “dikaios” meant a person who was civilized and who observed custom and legal norms. A person maintaining an admirable standard of morality, obeys the law, and is known as a decent person is considered to be “righteous”
 - To feel that you have earned God’s grace through meritorious works which naturally leads you to despise others who do not put forth such efforts.
 - Rather than comparing themselves to what God’s expectations are for them they compare themselves with others.



**Three Types of Prayers in 1st Century
Judaism**

1. Confession of sins
2. Thanksgiving for bounty
received
3. Petitions for oneself and others