

Matthew 6 • Practicing Our Righteousness

1. (5:48) We are to be complete in that our heart and mind are in accord with God's **Word**.
2. (v.1) Are we intent on **glorifying** God or bringing **glory** to our self?
3. (v.2-4) In all things we are to be a visible **witness** for Christ, not ourselves.
4. (v.5-6) In all things we are to be a **witness** for Christ from the heart.
5. (v.7-13) Righteousness is reflected in the quality of one's prayer when it seeks God's **will** above one's own **desires**.
 - a. Proper prayer acknowledges God's **sovereignty** and **authority**. (v.9)
 - b. Proper prayer seeks to build God's **kingdom** on earth, not our own. (v.10)
 - c. Proper prayer seeks God's **will**, not our own. (v.10)
 - d. Proper prayer seeks what we **need**, not what we **want**. (v.11)
 - e. Proper prayer seeks forgiveness not just of sin **within** us, but **against** us. (v.12)
 - f. Proper prayer seeks to avoid the opportunity for **sin**. (v.13)
6. (v.14-15) Biblical righteousness is closely associated with **forgiveness**.
7. (v.15-18) Biblical righteousness begins on the most **personal** level before it becomes visibly, externally **evident**.
8. (v.19-21) Biblical righteousness is characterized by a **fixation** not on this life but the one to come.
9. (v.22-23) Biblical righteousness is focused on the right, **heavenly** things rather than temporal, **earthly** things.
10. (v.24-30) Biblical righteousness exercises faith in God for all **earthly** matters.
11. (v.31-33) The biblically righteous are visibly **discernible** from worldly people.
 - a. Following God's laws (Mt. 5) externally instead of from the heart is the difference between someone focused on an **earthly** life versus **heavenly**.
 - b. Public vs. private display of Christian characteristics and activities is the difference between a "**hypocrite**" (earth-focused) and a **true believer** (heaven-focused).
 - c. The difference between being perfect/complete as our Father is whether we seek **HIS** kingdom and righteousness or our **own**.
 - d. Spiritual obedience results in BOTH earthly and heavenly **security** and fulfills the whole of God's Law: this is **biblical righteousness**.