Overly Righteous?

Tony Mauck · Ecclesiastes 7:16–17

INTRODUCTION

- Is it possible to be too righteous? Most of us who have served God and feared God for a number of years would say, no, it's not possible to be too righteous.
- I think it helps us when we see the wickedness verse that follows. He's not saying little wickedness is okay.

1 Solomon's Experiment Produces the Same Results

- Is there a particular way of life that will allow you to avoid hardship? Injustice, pain, sorrow, difficulty, and untimely death.
- Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done, and the labor which I had exerted, and behold, all was vanity, and striving after wind.
- It didn't give me the answers that I sought. It didn't fix life's inequities.
- Ultimately, there is no profit under the sun. It will not shield you from the hardships of life.

2 Wisdom Is the Superior Course, but There Are Limits

Ecclesiastes 7:11–14; Ephesians 5:15–16

- Wisdom along with an inheritance is good and an advantage to those who see the sun.
- You need to pursue wisdom. It's the best course, it's the superior course.
- I'm going to be really righteous before God, and prosperity is going to come. And he says, not necessary.
- And even though you should be wise, that's a better course. He says that's not a guarantee either. You're still going to have some adversity.

3 Do Not Be Excessively Wicked

Ecclesiastes 7:17; Proverbs 13:14–16

- Now you can reject wisdom if you like, but I'm going to tell you what you do. You bring yourself a lot closer to peril.
- Now you might die young as a righteous person. There are no guarantees there either. But you live wickedly, you may bring it about a lot faster.
- The preacher assures us that won't work either. Sin will not make you happy. It might even contribute to further misery.

4 There Is No Magic Path of Guarantee

Acts 12:1–11

- Whatever course you choose in life, righteous or wicked. Understand the limits. There is no magic path of guarantee.
- James, the apostle, was very righteous. And yet he died an untimely death. He was executed. Peter was also in prison, but he was released.
- I think a lot of people think that they become a Christian and they think it's all going to be roses after that.
- Don't measure the validity of righteousness by the circumstances of your life.

5 Righteousness Is the Preferable Course by Far

2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians 4:6–7

- Fear God and keep his commandments. Because this applies to every person. He will bring every act into judgment.
- Our time here is very temporary. We need to live in view of eternity.
- I'll tell you another reason why it's the preferable course, because it brings peace in the midst of chaos.
- The peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, can guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Godliness is profitable for all things. Having promise of the life that now is and the life that is to come.

6 It Is With Difficulty That the Righteous Are Saved

1 Peter 4:17–19; 2 Corinthians 5:10

- It is time for judgment to begin at the household of God.
- It is with difficulty that the righteous are saved. But what will be the outcome for the godless man and sinner?
- Entrust your soul to a faithful creator in doing what is right. And that was Solomon's conclusion, too.

THE CHALLENGE

Choose the superior course and choose the saving course because time isn't a given.

MY NOTES