

Righteousness: power to make right what is wrong

By Ed Rotz | Jun 13, 2017

Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus by Dr. Fleming Rutledge, an Episcopal priest, offers a thorough and compelling consideration of what took place outside of Jerusalem two millennia ago. Her insights are powerful.

Halfway through the book, the concept of righteousness is discussed. My word-association with the term triggers thoughts such as stern, puritan, legalistic, black-and-white, rigid, moral rectitude, stodgy, unyielding, static.

Righteousness is an indisputable attribute of God and is to be a characteristic of his people, but the author flips the coin over and shows another dynamic at play.

"God's (righteousness) is not an attribute but a *power*, namely, 'a power that brings salvation to pass.' Thus, 'righteousness' does not mean moral perfection. It is not a distant, forbidding characteristic of God that humans are supposed to try to emulate or imitate; there is no good news in that. Instead, *the righteousness of God is God's powerful activity of making right what is wrong in the world.*" (The emphases are hers).

When the Kansas District of The Wesleyan Church seeks to develop and deploy missional churches, we are collaborating with a fundamental aspect of who God is: to be righteous, i.e. to be supernaturally active, engaged and empowered, and sent out in an effort to make right what is wrong in the world. The influence of a local Wesleyan church in a community or a school district, as it acts to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus, exerts the righteousness of God to right the wrongs such as domestic violence, hungry children on weekends, illiteracy, sexual exploitation, bullying, and a nearly inexhaustible list of other wrongs.

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Jesus' mandate is to make disciples. Men and women who become followers of Jesus are not only #madenew, but they radiate his righteousness in their household, marketplace, school board, construction site, sale barn, and cubicle. The difference disciples make is due, not just through the righteousness of their character, but through the powerful activity of their lives, their involvement, their presence, their advocacy in making right what is wrong in the world.

July 2, 2017

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

“How to Beat the Odds - Children”

Sermon Notes:

Romans 8:31

The odds might be against us, but _____ is for us!

Ephesians 6:1-4

1) Obey because it is the _____ thing to do

2) Obey because it is _____

Exodus 20:12

3) Obey because it is in the Children's _____

Proverbs 29:15

4) Obey because it promotes a _____

5) Parents ought not _____ their Children

Philippians 4:9

6) Parents ought to _____ and _____

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. In what ways could you improve in the area of honoring your parents? If you are a parent, what could you take away from this message and add into your parenting of your child(ren) or grandchild(ren)?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following leaders in our nation:

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

Youth Group 6:30 - 8 PM tonight

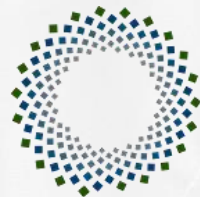
Plan to play some games, and learn with us! Current teaching series "Basic" by Francis Chan. Friends welcome!

FOCUS on... Sunday night July 16, 6:30-8 PM

Plan for some delicious pie and ice cream as we gather to hear from Pastor Nathaniel Price about *Transform Scott County* that evening.

FOCUS Family Fun Friday - July 14, 8:00 PM

FOCUS will be having a family movie night out on the lawn of the North side of the church building. Popcorn and water provided! Consider inviting some families and friends for a fun evening together!



FOCUS
WESLEYAN CHURCH

Welcome

THANKS FOR COMING

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