

# THE COUNSELOR

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## Godly Righteousness

. . . in *A Wicked World.*

### A CALL TO ACTION!

God's Righteousness is His Infinite, Eternal, quality of being right and just. His Justice (Righteousness) is the natural expression of His Holiness. He opposes all sin because He is Holy. He deals with all His creatures according to His Pure, Perfect, and Holy Justice. He *is* Supreme Justice! Therefore, He judges all mankind according to His Righteousness. (Psalm 96:13).

#### The Righteousness of God in the Bible:

- **The Lord is Righteous** (Psalm 11:7)
- **Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of God's Throne.** (Psalm 89:14)
- **The Heavens Declare His Righteousness.** (Psalm 97:6)
- **His Righteousness is Eternal.** (Psalm 111:3) (Psalm 112:9) (Psalm 119:142)
- **He is coming to Judge the World.** (Psalm 96:13) (Proverbs 11:19)
- **Righteousness leads to life and unrighteousness leads to death.** (Proverbs 11:19)
- **Righteousness involves doing right and being merciful. The reward is life and honor.** (Proverbs 21:21)
- **Righteousness involves the Kingdom of Heaven. We are to seek it.** (Matthew 5:10) (Matthew 6:33)
- **Righteousness also involves Peace.** (James 3:18)



- **We are commanded to be Righteous and keep Justice.** (Isaiah 56:1)
- **We are to pursue Righteousness.** (1 Timothy 6:11) (2 Timothy 2:22)
- **We are to proclaim His Righteousness.** (Psalm 40:9) (Psalm 40:10) (Psalm 71:15) (Psalm 71:16) (Psalm 71:24)
- **The Lord Loves Righteousness and Hates Wickedness.** (Psalm 45:7) (Proverbs 15:9)
- **The Righteous will be rewarded.** (Proverbs 11:18)
- **We are to love Righteousness and hate lawlessness.** (Hebrews 1:9)
- **We are to walk in His Righteousness.** (Psalm 15:2) (Psalm 17:15)
- **When we hunger and thirst for Righteousness we will be filled.** (Matthew 5:6)
- **God can increase the fruits of Righteousness.** (Corinthians 9:10)
- **Righteousness is one of the Fruits of the Spirit.** (Ephesians 5:9)
- **Scripture is for Instruction in Righteousness.** (2 Timothy 3:16)
- **When we suffer for Righteousness sake we are blessed, don't be troubled.** (1 Peter 3:14)
- **Everyone who practices Righteousness is born of God.** (1 John 2:29) (1 John 3:7)
- **Those who don't practice Righteousness are not of God.** (1 John 3:10)

God **revealed His Righteousness** through His Word to the World. He did this through the nation of Israel, and continues today to reveal His Righteousness to man through His Word and by fulfilling His promises and judging the enemies of Israel. God reveals His righteousness when He shows mercy and compassion too in His protection of the poor and the afflicted. Finally, God reveals His righteousness in saving sinners.<sup>1</sup>

## The righteousness of man

There is a world of difference between the Righteousness of God and the righteousness of man. It's the difference between life and death! The righteousness of man is sinful while the Righteousness of God is Perfect Justice = Judgment and Salvation. The righteousness of man is self-righteousness. This is arrogant and prideful, which is sin. Humans naturally respond with indignation (self-righteousness) when they are wronged. They become angry because their "self" has been injured. This type of anger usually leads to vengeance. The anger (wrath) of man is sin natured; which does not produce the Righteousness of God (James 1:20). Godly Righteousness occurs when



we are grieved and angered because someone does something against God. Jesus showed His Righteous Holy Anger when He cleared the temple (Matt. 21:12). We can never be righteous apart from God because of our sin nature. Isaiah 64:6 reminds us that we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags;" that's how our human righteousness compares to God! We accomplish nothing, no matter how mad we get at this wicked world and its leaders, when we do so in our own self-righteousness and strength. Also, we can never do enough good works and make ourselves right in the eyes of the Lord. We can never judge others with perfect justice. Our justice is sin driven, that's why we need His Righteousness. Jesus is called the Righteous Branch (Jeremiah 23:5) "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth." We obtain the righteousness of God through the atoning Blood of the Lamb; salvation which is through faith in Christ, Righteousness which is from

God by faith. (Phil. 3:9)

## His Love is Equal to His Wrath

Our Creator is a loving God. He will restore everything back to the way it was before the fall. That was His Plan right from the beginning. Jesus came into this world to set us free from eternal death and He's coming back to set up His Perfect Eternal Kingdom where we will live with Him, and the Father forever. This corrupt world will end. It will return to the state Adam and Eve lived in before the Fall. God's love accomplishes salvation. His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ is Love, which people are more comfortable talking about, but it is important not to forget about the other side of God's Love - His Wrath, They don't always see the wrath of God Almighty is a result of His love. God is a Jealous God and does not want us to love anyone or anything more than Him. "For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." (Exodus 34:14) However, this does not mean that He is a dictator or a tyrant....because His motives are always pure and in our best interest. He is the completely Sovereign God. We will never totally grasp this until we meet Him.

God pours out His wrath. We have seen His Heavy Hand throughout history when He judged wicked nations and their leaders. He blotted out the evil people in Noah's time, leveled Sodom and Gomorrah, and brought down many wicked kingdoms noted in the Bible. He judged His own people for their disobedience and allowed them to go into captivity. He does not tolerate wickedness. I believe that His Righteous judgment is being poured out on the U.S. for its disobedience, too. God's Righteous Wrath will consume the wicked as they will eventually be removed forever and spend eternity in a place reserved especially for them - Hell. Everyone that has opposed God will suffer the consequences of His wrath. Evil will be separated from good forever. That day is rapidly approaching!



## Enough Is Enough!

When is enough, enough? It seems like the majority of Christians in the U.S. have been silent and complacent far too long. We have given up too much ground without resisting. We let the enemy advance by doing nothing about the wickedness that has infested our land. Abortion, homosexual rights, legalized gay marriages, and hate crimes legislation reflect America's depravity. This trend is setting the stage for severe persecution later. The world system will persecute us believers no matter what we do. Should we be afraid and do nothing? No. We must do something. John the Baptist was not afraid, he spoke out against the evils of his time. Jesus boldly confronted the wickedness around Him. Both He and John the Baptist preached repentance (Matt. 3:2, Matt. 4:17, Luke 13:3). Jesus offered the Great Alternative to sin and damnation: Eternal Salvation. Stephen was martyred as were other saints down through the ages that risked or gave their lives for Christ, spreading the Truth. They confronted evil and warned people about the consequences of sin. They presented God's alternative. These believers preached the message of redemption! How many more babies need to be murdered through abortions? How many more states will accept perverted laws supporting same sex marriages? How much longer do we allow these people and times to define us? They are on a fast pace to shape our children's minds with their atheistic, God hating propaganda. Do we just sit on the sidelines and wait for the Lord's return without responding to their blatant attempts to pollute and destroy us? We are God's precious children! **No! Enough is enough!**

## Enemies of God

Who are the enemies of God? "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4). We are God's enemies when we oppose Him in our sinful state. We don't remain in that sinful state even though we fall into sin from time to time throughout our lives. We have the sin nature, but we also have the power of the Holy Spirit as born again believers to resist evil and not succumb to sin. We have been saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ. He forgives our sins as we strive to obey Him in our Christian walk. There are those who want nothing to do with God and go out

of their way to oppose Him. They hate God and oppose anyone or anything associated with Christ; they choose to be ungodly and unrighteous. They go on sinning and approve of others sinning (Romans 1:29-32) "being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but *also approve of those who practice them.*"

Politicians and associations that are determined to take our Christian freedoms away are God's enemies. They call evil good and try to make us accept and conform to ungodliness. They defy the living God. They are the modern day Pharaohs, Goliaths, Balaam's, Hamans, Jezebels, Sanbalats, Pharisees, and Nebecunezzars.

## Taking Action: Fighting Back

So what do we do? Is it wrong to challenge evil people? Should we let the enemies of God have their way with us and do nothing? Our Creator did not design us to be doormats. But what does the Master tell us to do? **"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."** (Matt. 5:44). We are supposed to repay evil with good as Christians according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are also supposed to obey those in authority. (Heb. 13:17). What about hating the enemies of God (our enemies)? Are we supposed to hate evil? Yes. Then how do we approach evil? What does the Bible say? "Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies." (Psalm 139:21-22).

## Responding to those people trying to impose their wicked values on us in these Last Days:

1. **We pray for God's wisdom and direction on how to proceed. We listen to the Holy Spirit.**



James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Proverbs 4:5-7 “Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore, get wisdom.”

**2. We must not accept or give in to the evil offered to us, mentally or physically. Joseph resisted evil:**



Genesis 39:8-9 “But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you,

because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

**3. We offer them the love of Christ Jesus by witnessing His salvation plan.**

**Matt. 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**

Acts 16:27-33 “And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called

with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized.”

Psalm 40:9-10 “I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly.”

**4. We let them know we cannot participate in activities that oppose God.**

John 15:19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” John 17:16 “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

**5. We respond by obeying God rather than man. We cannot obey laws that go against God.**

“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to **obey God** rather than men.’” (Acts 5:29)

Psalm 18:20-23 “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath He recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me. I was also upright before Him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.”

Psalm 109: 1-5 “Do not keep silent, O God of my praise! For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful have opened against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and

fought against me without a cause. In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer. Thus they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.”

## 6. We pray for God to heal the land. We pray for repentance.

2 Chronicles 7:14 “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” Rev. 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

## 7. We also fight back:

Each one of us will stand before God and give an account for what we know. We are to be doers and not only hearers of the Word. James 1:22 “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

We are not to fall into complacency, but we are called to be over-comers by obedience and will receive compensation for that from the Master. Rev. 3:15-16 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Rev. 3:21-22 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

God will deal with the wickedness in the world and our country now and in the end. In the meantime we are not supposed to sit back and let the world's agenda dictate our lives. This is completely unbiblical. The early persecuted Church described in the Book of Acts fought back by presenting the Truth and living Godly lives. They suffered for taking a stand. Millions have been martyred since then. They stepped way out of their comfort zones and did not conform to evil. The churches in America are

beginning to wake up. Some are starting to push back. More ground will be lost if more Christians don't fight back. Persecution is increasing. These are the End Times.

Today, you can take a stand for God's Righteousness by getting involved in Christian action groups who oppose ungodly proposals to legalize same sex marriages or giving homosexuals the right to push their unholy agenda on our children in the schools. Some of these action groups include the **Christian Coalition of America (www.cc.org)** ; the **American Center for Law and Justice (www.aclj.org)**, the **American Family Association (action.afa.net)**, and **Focus on the Family (focusonthefamily.com)**. It is our Godly duty and American right to protest proposed legislation which condones and forces immorality on us. Contact your government on all levels and voice your concerns. Call and write your congress representatives, attorney general, and governor. Let your Federal, State and local officials know you are extremely unhappy with what is going on so they can register your complaints. Consider signing petitions against abortion laws, etc. Don't vote for "wolves in sheep's clothing." Stay informed about what your lawmakers are trying to do. **The Christian Newswire (www.christiannewswire.com)** and **American Family Radio/ American Family Association (www.afr.net)** post activism and action alerts. Check them out. They are a great source for up to date legislative alerts. There are links to your elected officials where you can contact them. Don't let them pass ungodly laws. They need to know you do not support them.



## Spiritual Warfare

We are not only dealing with God's human adversaries, "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12). We have to take spiritual measures along with human methods to combat the evil coming against us in these Last Days. The enemies of God are influenced by the devil and his army of demons. Some Christians don't

like to acknowledge this fact, but it does not change the reality of the world we live in. We are engaged in a spiritual battle and must rely on God to show and equip us with the tools to resist and fight these formidable negative forces assaulting believers of God's Word.

The Apostle Paul clearly tells us how we are supposed to face the evil that surrounds us today. We are to "take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:13). We must put on the full armor of God and fight these principalities with spiritual warfare prayers. (Ephesians 6:11-18).



We must pray, pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ over ourselves and our loved ones as we fight against the devil and his hosts, our wicked enemies in the heavenly places. We are never to fight the adversary in your own strength. Let God lead the way in confronting

the enemy and tearing down his strongholds. I admonish you as believers to use the Word of God to do this. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12) Ephesians 6:17 says, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Go to the Psalms for excellent examples of spiritual warfare prayers, applying them to your situation. David poured out his heart to God to save him from his enemies. He praised God and pleaded for the Lord to intervene in his situation and destroy his enemies. Some good examples are seen in Psalms 5:1-6; 11, 18:6; 28; 32:7; 34:7; 35; 56:9; 59-16-17; 86:17; 91; 119:85-87; 133; and 140:6-11). These are prayers of protection as well.

We must reconcile the need to love our enemies with praying for their destruction. Keep in mind that we don't have to pray for God to wipe out His human

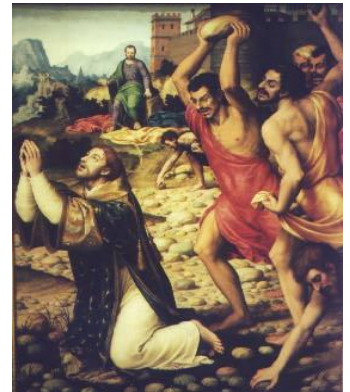
enemies, but the evil demonic forces driving these human enemies of God must go. They must be destroyed.



David's imprecatory prayers petitioned our God of Righteousness to wipe out his enemies. Jesus said "**love your enemies**" (Matt. 5:44). We must always lead with God's love in all we do. We love because He first loved us (1John 4:19). We should always act in love. So what about dealing with those people who are dead set on destroying us and everything that is Godly? It's always a higher calling to love first, and there are times when our love must be firm. In our Godly righteousness (not our own self-righteous), our love for God moves us to want His wicked enemies destroyed when they are coming against us. Not everyone will agree and some will think this is unbiblical, but there is a place for imprecatory prayers even today. Seek God in discerning the time you should "love your enemies" and act accordingly, and when you should pray for their removal.

## Facing Persecution

Expect persecution. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12). "**Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**" (Matt. 5:10) Laws are being passed today that



will usher in greater persecution tomorrow. The rights of Christians in the U.S. are being stripped away by ungodly liberal special interest groups. These groups push values which directly oppose God and force them on Christians. When Christians resist or fight back they are persecuted. Jesus prophesied this in Matthew 24. Love overcomes hate. Nevertheless, we should resist just like the early Christians did. They refused to deny Christ and bow down to the rulers of worldly systems. They didn't take on the ungodly values in that time, and we should not bow down now. Count on



persecution. Prepare yourself for all kinds of intense hatred and slanderous attacks on you. God gives us the courage to stand for Him. Be prepared to suffer, even die for your faith in Christ. Stand strong in your faith. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4). Face persecution without committing violence. Pray for God to help you persevere when confronted with persecution. Christ will remain with you as you go through persecution in these days. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom 8:35). So we press on and do God's work in the face of all kinds of adversity.

### Walking in God's Righteousness

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6). Seek Christ diligently. Strive to walk in His Holiness and perfection. That also means loving others first



and walking in God's Righteousness, not your own. We can love deeply while still resisting and confronting the evil that surrounds us. Stand up for God - He will fight your battles. The victory already belongs to

the Lord. Love those who persecute you. Do this in God's strength.

Stand up for God's justice. We must do our part. Most of the ancient Jews did very little as a group to fight **idolatry** and it cost them much. We must not be self-righteous in our efforts. We must love what God loves and hate what He hates. This is Biblical. We must also be careful not to engage in "foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife." (2 Tim. 2:23). We must temper our approach with gentleness and patience so we can teach those who would listen to us. (2 Tim. 2:24). We should approach people first "in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

We are called to love our enemies, and yet confront them at the same time with the Truth of the Word of God. This is a delicate balance which only God Almighty can help us achieve. We must love and not let the sun go down on our anger at them. We can love and be angry in God's Righteousness at the same time without compromising our Christian walk. We can walk in God's Love and Righteousness at the same time as we witness and confront a dying world that vehemently opposes God.

Brothers and sisters, fellow believers in Christ, I encourage you to press on against the evil that has besieged our land. We must endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. (2 Tim. 2:3)

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