Sermon Notes 01.02.2021 – Lovers of God / Lovers of Righteousness – Part 1

God is Holy

Isaiah 6:1-5 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

God is Righteous and Near

Psalms 145:17-18 The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds. 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

God Manifests His Holiness by Righteousness

Isaiah 5:16 But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment, And **the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.**

Psalms 97:6 **The heavens declare His righteousness**, And all the peoples have seen His glory.

Psalms 45:6-7 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; **A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.** 7 **You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;** Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your fellows.

- Loving what God loves and hating what God hates

What is the Righteousness of God?

"...here is what it means that God is righteous.

- God is just in all he does.
- God is upright in his ways.
- God operates with honesty.
- God always does the right thing that is appropriate for the moment.

It is important that you understand that righteousness is not something that God does, it is something that God is. To put it another way, righteousness is part of God's character. Since he is righteous that means that there is no other way for him to act because he must remain true to who he is." From: https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/

How Does the Righteousness of God Affect Us?

1 Peter 1:15-16 but **like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; 16**

because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Ephesians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love**

If We Love God, We Should Love Righteousness Because He is Righteous

Matthew 5:6 "**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

We Are Completely Unable to Be Holy or Righteous by the Exercise of Our Will Power or Strength

It is the Work of God – Even in the Old Testament Writings

Isaiah 61:10-11 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For **He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,** As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, **So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise To spring up before all the nations**.

> **Romans 3:19-23** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, **so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God**; 20 because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight**; for **through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin**. 21 But **now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets**, 22 **even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; 23 **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

Romans 3:24-26 being **justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**; 25 whom **God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness**, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for **the demonstration, *I say,* of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Such as We Are, We are called to be Lovers of Righteousness & Lovers of People Who Are the Same

Our Leaders are Instructed by God to Be:

Titus 1:7-9 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, 8 but hospitable, **loving what is good**, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Hearing and Doing the Word

James 1:19-27 *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; **20** for **the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.** **21** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. **26** If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. **27** Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

When you need to know for certain that what you believe is righteous, is righteous

Comparisons:

The righteousness of man

Self righteousness (filthy rags - - note the context of Isaiah – God is saying that all of their religiocity is worthless)