

"Uncommon Sense" from The Proverbs—About Righteousness

Sunday Evening, November 1, 2026 – WOCC – Rich Howell

EVENING DEVOTION: REASONS TO BE RIGHTEOUS!

When it comes to right and wrong, we live in a world of blurred lines and many shades of gray, don't we? God pronounced a judgment on the people of Isaiah's time (7th Century B.C.) that rings true today: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). So, we know that the Bible defines righteousness, as God our Maker defines it, and draws clear distinctions between right and wrong. But the Bible also gives us many good reasons to _____ righteousness; and Proverbs contains many such reasons ...

- 1. RIGHTEOUSNESS DEFINED:** The quality or state of being morally _____ or just, according to a divine or moral _____. It is essentially the state of "rightness"—right thoughts, right speech, right attitudes, right conduct, right character. (Greek, *dikaio*s = straight, like a ruler)
- 2. TERMS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:** The word "right" appears in Proverbs _____ times; the word "righteous" _____ times; "righteousness" _____ times; "upright" _____ times; "uprightness" _____ times—for a grand total of _____ occurrences in 31 chapters! So it should come as no surprise that "righteousness" is one of the prime objectives of Proverbs (**1:1-3; 22:17-21; 24:23-25; 2:9**)
- 3. A GOOD ELECTION DAY VERSE! Prov 14:34**—"Righteousness _____ a nation, but sin is a _____ to any people."
- 4. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE _____!**
 - a. _____ righteousness and be blessed! **Prov 21:21; 10:3; Mat 5:6; 6:33; 1 Tim 6:11**
 - b. A _____ of life or death! **Prov 11:4,19; 12:28; 14:12; Jer 10:23**
 - c. The Lord hears the _____ of the righteous! **Prov 15:29; 1 Pet 3:12; James 5:16**
 - d. You can't keep a _____ man down! **Prov 24:16**
 - e. The righteous can withstand the _____ of life! **Prov 10:25; 12:7; Mat 7:24-28**
 - f. The righteous are _____, so they keep on learning and growing! **Prov 9:9**
 - g. Miscellaneous blessings! **Prov 3:33; 10:7,24; 11:8; 12:21; 13:21; 28:1**
 - h. And, the righteous are _____ to others! **10:11,20-21; 12:26**
- 5. THE TRUTH ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - a. Three facts about righteousness from Psalm 11:7
 - _____ is righteous! (Deut 32:4; Ps 145:17; 92:15; 119:142)
 - He _____ righteous deeds!
 - The upright shall _____ His _____!
 - b. Problem: "_____ is righteous, no not _____!" (Eccl 7:20-29; Rom 3:9-12,23)
 - c. Solution: Through Christ, the Righteous One, we can be made righteous (_____) by faith! (Gen 15:6; Isa 53:11; 61:10; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18; 2 Cor 5:21; Phil 3:9; Rom 3:21-25a; 4:3-8)
 - Jesus _____ our righteousness! (1 Cor 1:30-31)
 - d. But God does more than _____ us "righteous," He _____ us to live a righteous life before Him (1 John 3:4-10; Titus 2:11-12)—and with His _____, we can! (Rom 8:12-14)