

## Righteousness

**Matthew 3:15-And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.** (KJV)

Righteousness is referenced in several different places in St. Matthew's Gospel. Believers on the journey to the Kingdom of God do well to consider righteousness. Righteousness is prominent in the growth of serious believers in the Christian life. Believers are expected to actively pursue growth in Jesus Christ throughout life.

**Matthew 5:6-Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.** (KJV)

The Beatitudes proclaimed at the Divine Liturgy always reference righteousness. Each Divine Liturgy is an active prayer as well as a new learning experience. Believers benefit from being attentive to and learning from the Divine Liturgy. Participation in the Divine Liturgy is an intended active life-changing experience. The hunger in the soul yearns for righteousness in celebrating the Divine Liturgy.

**Matthew 5:10-Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** (KJV)

Righteousness comes through living in Christ and repelling all that is not of Christ. The believer is changed by Christ as the believer conforms to Christ's teachings. Believers are expected to actively adhere to and learn from Christ's teachings. The Church offers Christ's teachings to the believer throughout earthly life. Adhering to Jesus Christ's teachings includes suffering for Christ at times in life.

**Matthew 5:20-For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.** (KJV)

Following Christ does not exempt a believer from experiencing the crosses in life. The Lord Jesus Christ established the lasting example of how to deal life's crosses. Believers benefit from constantly evaluating the state of personal growth in Christ. The Holy Gospel helps believers to measure and assess personal growth in Christ. The Gospel can be used to measure personal growth in Christ and spur repentance.

**Matthew 6:33-But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** (KJV)

Stagnancy in the Christian life denies the believer the full opportunities of life. The journey from the Baptismal font to God's Kingdom requires earnest effort. Sin needs to be repelled and the righteousness of the Gospel actively embraced. Christ's love manifests in the believer choosing to actively live in Jesus Christ. Righteousness is a primary Christian goal throughout the journey of earthly life.

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Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome. Holy Babylas of Sicily. Venerable Xenia of Petersburg. January 24/February 6, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic