

Oxford Baptist Church – Sunday July 2, 2017
Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday Weekend
Pastor Robin W. Pifer
Summer 2017 Series - "Grow!"
Message – Grow in Righteousness.
Scripture: Proverbs 14:34; Matt 6:33

Pursing Righteousness is the Christ-centred way of Life.

**Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin condemns any people.**

Righteousness has a Generational Blessing. Exodus 20:4-6; Psalm 103:17

What is Righteousness? Righteousness comes by faith (Rom 1:17; 3:22, 23) in Jesus Christ resulting in a life that pleases the Lord and is faithful to this life changing relationship. Justified in Jesus Christ to live a Spirit-filled life evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit in our relationships. (Gal 5:16-26; Ephesians 5&6). The imputed righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) of Jesus results in holy living (Rom 12:1).

Righteousness is Counter-Cultural – "Life is precious from conception to natural death."

Discriminate between the unrighteous and the Righteous. Hebrews 13:4-6 Sin leads to death and judgement. Righteousness leads to life.

Righteousness seeks the Kingdom of God. Matt 6:33

- Self Righteousness is full of Pride. Luke 18:9-14

"Self Help doesn't help; my sinful self life is the problem."

- The Righteousness of the Lord is Humble. 1Peter 5:5-7
- True Righteousness avoids sinful desires. 1Peter 1:11-12
 - Don't settle, blend in or compromise by being a secular citizen of Canada, live like a citizen of the Kingdom of God in Canada

- Flee Sin and Pursue Righteousness in the power of Christ. 2Timothy 2:22; 1Tim 6:11
- Mature people see righteousness not as a bunch of rules God is forcing down to us but as the way to life. (Matt 5:3-11; Romans 8:13)
- **Characteristics of Those who pursue righteousness in Jesus Christ.**
 1. They put off old sinful ways and turn to the ways God does things. (Repentance)
 2. They seek more and more to understand the wisdom of God for life through the Spirit and the Word.
 3. They commit to a plan of personal discipleship and discipline in order to grow.

Righteousness in Jesus Christ produces life and blessings. Matthew 5:6; Proverbs 21:21; Romans 14:17

A Righteousness Benediction – Ephesians 4:22-24; Phil 1:9-10

Life Group and Personal Questions

- What is the difference between self-righteousness and true righteousness in Jesus Christ?
- Why is righteousness in Jesus Christ counter-cultural?
- What does it mean to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness?
- Review the verses that emphasis "flee from" and "pursue". How does this help us grow in righteousness?
- What are the blessings of pursuing true righteousness in Jesus Christ?
- What are three ways this summer you can pursue the Kingdom of God and the righteousness of Jesus Christ?