

The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those
Whose Live's Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12

Matthew 6:1-34

*"Two Great Threats To Our
Right Standing Before God"*

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Chapter 5 - The Kingdom Citizen's



- * **Character: (5:3-12)**
- * **Influence upon the world: (5:13-16)**
- * **Righteousness *MUST EXCEED* the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees: (5:17-20)**
- * **Dealings with others: (5:21-48)**

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3

Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



*Jesus strikes at the
heart of hypocrisy -
Pride & Worldliness!*

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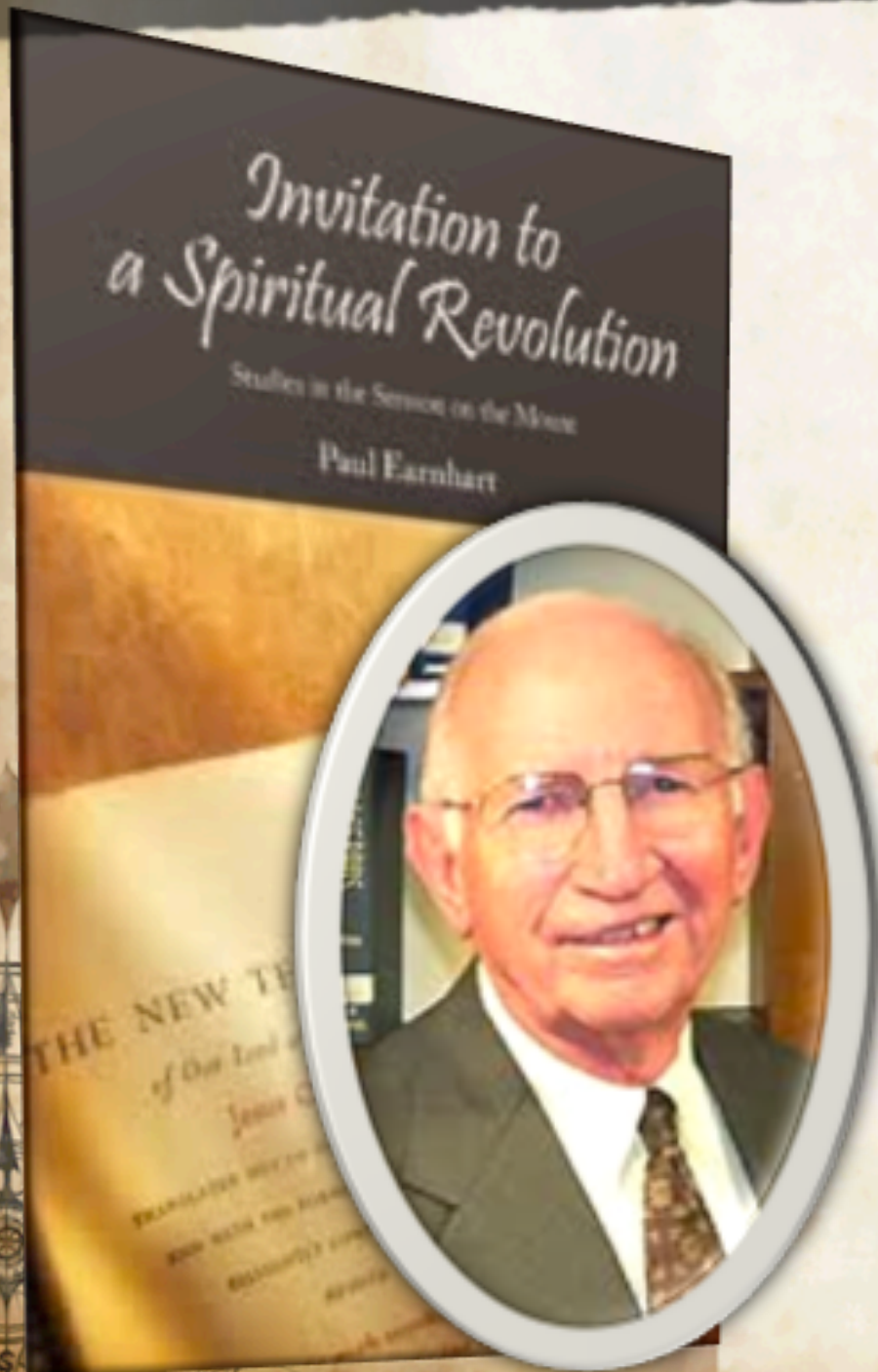
Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



- * **True righteousness & piety rest not upon our relationship with people and things - but our relationship with God!**
- * **True righteousness & piety reaches to heart depth** - (Deut 10:12; 30:6; Mat 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31; Rom 2:29; Eph 6:6)
- * **True righteousness & piety has the right motive & attitude - NOT merely right words and deeds!** - (1 Tim 1:5; 1 Thes 4:1; Eph 4:1-3; Col. 1:9-12)

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Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



“Mere worship and generosity do not give a man sure refuge from evil. Satan will follow right into the place of prayer and turn his very worship into sin. A man must keep his heart pure and his love true. God must be the object of everything!”

[Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 71]

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Matthew 6:1 (NKJV)

¹ “Take heed that you do not do your **charitable deeds** before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, . . .” - ESV

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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

*When Our Acts of Righteousness Are
Done To Impress Men - 6:1-18*



◆ **Religion can be easily corrupted into acts of self-righteousness and pride.**

- ✱ *"Practicing your righteousness"* simply refers to all acts of obedience & service to God - things He has commanded & accepts.
- ✱ *"Before men, to be seen by them"* - i.e., the deeds are being done in order to receive human acknowledgement and praise for ourselves.

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*When Our Acts of Righteousness Are
Done To Impress Men - 6:1-18*



◆ **Religion can be easily corrupted into acts of self-righteousness and pride.**

- ✱ When our religion is motivated by pride and arrogance - even the right and good things we do are corrupted - (Amos 5:21,22; Mic 6:8)
- ✱ Those motivated by pride and arrogance are not beyond twisting the scripture to support the things they want to do - (Rom. 1:19-23; Col. 2:18-23)

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Jesus Condemns Both

The spirit that seeks praise from
others OR self!

**The spirit
which seeks
publicity**

**The spirit of
self-
righteousness**

Matthew 23:5-12

Luke 18:9-14



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*When Our Acts of Righteousness Are
Done To Impress Men - 6:1-18*



*Distinction is in
The Motive!*

**"... you have no
reward from your
Father in
heaven ...**

**Assuredly, I say
to you, they have
their reward.**

(2,5,16)



Charity - 2-4



Praying - 5



Fasting - 16

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Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

When Our Values, perspectives and loyalties are materialistic - 6:19-34



*Distinction is in
Priorities!*

◆ **A divided heart makes our religion and service to God vain - 19-24**

- ✱ *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth"* - Our treasure is that which we value most - seek the most - desire the most.
- ✱ Lying before each of us is the choice between earth & heaven - physical & spiritual - temporal & eternal.
- ✱ We will & must choose one or the other!

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When Our Values, perspectives and loyalties are materialistic - 6:19-34



*Distinction is in
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◆ **A divided heart makes our religion and service to God vain - 19-24**

- * *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth"* - not a prohibition of bank accounts or the mere possession of material things.
- * This admonition is not addressing how many material things a child of God can or cannot have - but rather the attitude one has towards material things. - (1 John 2:15-17)

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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

When Our Values, perspectives and loyalties are materialistic - 6:19-34

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.



*Distinction is in
Priorities!*



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Colossians 3:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

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James 4:4 (NKJV)

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

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When Our Values, perspectives and loyalties are materialistic - 6:19-34



*Distinction is in
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◆ **Our heart is given to anxiety and fear - 25-32**

- * *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, . . ." - Worry, (anxiety), Manifests a lack of faith in God.*
- * *Some aspire to wealth while others are in fear of poverty. Both covetousness for & anxiety over material things manifest worldliness - (cf. Luke 12:13-31 where the Lord again associates the two)*

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*Distinction is in
Priorities!*

We exchange the timeless for the timely. Failing to please God does not necessitate utter ungodliness and gross immorality! Divided devotion and mixed loyalty does the job!



Temporary - 19-21



Darkness - 23



Can't serve God - 24



Like Gentiles - 6:25-32

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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"



*Distinction is in
The Motive!*

*Jesus strikes at the
heart of hypocrisy -*
Pride & Worldliness!



Ego

Arrogance

Self Righteousness

Judgmental

Luke 18:9-14

Matthew 23:5-12

Selfishness

Greed

Materialism

Worry

Luke 16:19-31

Luke 18:18-23



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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

**Pride & Arrogance
Tempts Us To Seek
The Favor of Men
Rather Than God**

- ◆ Benevolence – 2-4
- ◆ Prayer – 5-15
- ◆ Fasting – 16-18

**G
O
D**

**The World Can
Have A Negative
Influence Over
our Priorities &
Faith**

- ◆ Covetousness -19-23
- ◆ Divided heart - 24
- ◆ Anxiety – 25-34



Either way - We Forfeit Any Reward From God

The Sermon On The Mount

"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

**Pride & Arrogance
Tempts Us To Seek
The Favor of Men
Rather Than God**

**G
O
D**

**The World Can
Have A Negative
Influence Over
our Priorities &
Faith**



- ◆ Quarrels
- ◆ Agendas
- ◆ Division
- ◆ Change Agents

- ◆ Uncommitted
- ◆ Unfaithful
- ◆ Dissatisfied
- ◆ Change Seekers



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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"



- ◆ Jesus didn't die so you could seek the praises of men or that you may be honored by men.
- ◆ Jesus didn't die so you could be rich materially!
- ◆ Jesus died that you may be reconciled to God and live with Him forever!

**Will you forfeit the eternal
for the temporary?**



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"Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"



**Will you forfeit the eternal
for the temporary?**



The Sermon On The Mount

Love your enemies - bless them - do good - pray for them

Charts by Don McClain

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1 Timothy 6:3-10 (NKJV)

³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

1 Timothy 6:3-10 (NKJV)

⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.