

## "To Be Or Not"

Matthew 3: 13 - 17

December 29, 2010

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20)*

### The Lord Jesus Himself Has Told Us That True Righteousness Is Not A Ritual But A Nature, (Chpt. 3 - 17)

- Genuine repentance follows in acts of obedience the One whose identity we have been given, (vs. 13 - 17)
  1. Jesus submitted to baptism intentionally, (vs. 13); *"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. "* (1 Peter 2:21-24)
  2. Jesus submitted to baptism even though there was no need for Him to do so, (vs. 14 - 15)
    - ✦ The specific witness of John the Baptist to Jesus' sinlessness, (vs. 14); *"the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who BELIEVE. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are JUSTIFIED by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over FORMER SINS. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the JUSTIFIER of the one who has faith in Jesus."* (Romans 3:22-26)
    - ✦ The specific command of Jesus for both to fulfill all righteousness, (vs. 15);
      - *"Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." "* (Psalm 40:7-8)
      - *"Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work." (John 4:34)*
      - *"And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." "* (John 8:29)
      - *"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." (John 13:15)*
      - *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." (John 15:10)*
      - *"but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. "* (Philippians 2:7-8)
      - *"For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens." (Hebrews 7:26)*
  3. Jesus submitted to baptism as an outward demonstration of obedience, (vs. 16 - 17)
    - ✦ Obedience prompted by one's nature, (vs. 16a)
    - ✦ Obedience completing what is required in fullest measure, (vs. 16b)
    - ✦ Obedience experience the reality of God's kingdom, (vs. 16c); *"And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. "* (Isaiah 11:2)
    - ✦ Obedience drawn into the presence of God, (vs. 16d)
    - ✦ Obedience declared in right-standing with God, (vs. 17); *"Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ... Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ... "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. "* (John 12:28-36)

- True righteousness as a nature is displayed in faithful obedience, (Chpt. 4)
- Section 2: A Nature Of True Righteousness Is Promoted By Formative Discipline, (Chpt. 5 - 7)
- Section 3: A Nature Of True Righteousness Must Be Applied, (Chpt. 8 - 9)
- Section 4: A Nature Of True Righteousness Is Divinely Expected, (Chpt. 10 - 12)