

I. Exposition of the Text**A. Do not be overly righteous**

- 1) What this does not mean
 - a) Not saying *Don't be too concerned about holiness*
 - b) Reasons this view should be rejected:
 - i. This view presents a poor view of God
 - ii. This view presents a poor view of Christ
 - iii. This view presents a poor view of Scripture
 - iv. This view presents a poor view of Ecclesiastes
 - v. This view presents a poor view of Solomon
- 2) What this does mean —
 - a) Do not be self-righteous.
 - b) Do not be pretentious in your righteousness (Mt 5:20)
 - c) Do not have a counterfeit righteousness (Isa 29:13)
 - d) Do not be ostentatious in your righteousness.
 - e) Do not be over-scrupulous in matters of indifference.
 - f) Do not so emphasize perfection and self-examination that you never actually do anything.

B. Nor be overly wise

- 1) Do not be self-sufficient in your own knowledge
- 2) Do not think yourself wiser than you are (Rom 12:2-3)
- 3) Do not think yourself wiser than God

C. Why should you destroy yourself? (Rev 2:1-7).**II. Doctrines from the Text**

- A. We may think we are doing good but are actually living unto destruction (Pr 14:12)
- B. There are excesses of good things
- C. There are common as well as sacred duties, which being overly righteous ignores (1 Cor 7:32-33; 1 Tim 4:3; Heb 13:4; Lev 10:9-11).
- D. Not only are we bound to the positive duties, but we are given an abundance of liberty in lawful enjoyments

E. The *overly righteous* are to tremble at this threatening

- 1) Being overly righteous focuses on our own righteousness takes our eyes off of the righteousness of Christ
- 2) Being overly righteous will leave you with an unnecessarily troubled conscience, unto despair and then to destruction.
- 3) Being overly righteous will isolate you from your family and your future means of provision (Mk 7:10-13)
- 4) Being overly righteous will isolate you from the good gift of friendship.
- 5) Being overly righteous emphasizes glorifying God at the expense of enjoying Him.
- 6) Being overly righteous is, in sum, not sustainable for a Christian, or for a Church.

III. Answering Objections to the Text**A. Objection 1: But shouldn't we hate all sin like God?****B. Objection 2: But how can I know if I am being overly righteous?****IV. Applications to the Text****A. Look at the life of the Righteous One, Jesus Christ —**

- 1) Showing us the righteousness and works of the Father (Jn 14:10-11)
- 2) Perfect in every moment by both His nature and actions.
- 3) Did not put up with pretended righteousness (Mt 23:29-30)
- 4) Called to right priority in our total obedience (Mt 23:23)
- 5) Did not excuse sin, but calling sinners to repentance (Lk 9:56)

B. Be not overly righteous

- 1) With your sanctification (Psa 51:3; Jms 5:16)
- 2) With unbelievers in evangelism
- 3) With one another as Christians (Jer 9:23-24)
- 4) With the Church

C. Three concluding comforts

- 1) The actual righteousness of Jesus Christ
- 2) The actual righteousness of sanctification (1 Thes 5:23-24)
- 3) The actual righteousness of glorification