

ACCESS

FREEDOM SHOULDN'T BE THIS **HARD**

Free to do what? **FIGHT**
“SÜCKENSIESUP BUTTERCÜP”

The **PURSUIT** of righteousness:

SEEK righteousness – Matt 6:33 = like Herod “sought” Jesus. He hunted for him.

HUNGER and **THIRST** for righteousness – Matt 5:6 = “hungering”, “thirsting”; never satisfied. Sometimes we need to develop an appetite for righteousness.

PURSUE righteousness – 1 Tim 6:11 = hunt after, stalk, “persecute.”

PRESS ON to righteousness – Phil 3:14

AWAKE to righteousness – 1 Cor 15:34 = sober up to righteousness

PRESENT as **INSTRUMENTS** of righteousness – Rom 6:12 = weapon, armor, Rom 13:12, 1 Cor 6:7.

WALK in the Spirit – Gal 5:16

WALK in good works – Eph 2:10

We are **FREE** to participate in the **BATTLE** for righteousness.

The **PROGRESSION** of righteousness:

We can learn to tell the difference between righteousness and unrighteousness

BETTER. Heb 5:14

We can learn to practice righteousness **BETTER**. Titus 2:12

We can learn to desire righteousness **MORE** (better). Titus 2:14

We can progress to the point that it won't be a struggle. _____

The **PROMISES** of righteousness:

There are benefits for now and later – 1 Tim 4:8

God will be glorified – 2 Cor 9:10-14

God pays attention to the prayers of the righteous – 1 Pet 3:12, cf. James 5:16

All those who desire (**intentionally actively pursue**) to live godly lives in

Christ **WILL** be persecuted (**pursued**) – 2 Tim 3:12

It gets easier to live righteously. **NOT!!!** It may become even more **DIFFICULT**

to live righteously: increased **TEMPTATION** increased **PERSECUTION**,

increased **CHALLENGES**...

2 Timothy 4:6-8

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Hebrews 12:2-4, 18-24

Life Group Discussion Questions – October 17, 2021

Romans 6:17-18 *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and after being freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness.*

DISCOVER

1. What makes someone a slave? What does it mean to be born a slave? In the legal terms of ownership and property, discuss the differences and similarities of a freed slave to a Christian.

2. Define sin. What does it mean that we are freed from sin? How does this freedom enslave us to righteousness?

3. Define righteousness. What are some synonyms for righteousness? Where does righteousness come from?

EXPLORE

1. Read Proverbs 15:9. If God wants us to pursue righteousness, then what about verses such as **Romans 3:10** that say, “There is none righteous, no not one”? If no one is righteous, then who can really pursue it? Are those verses contradictory?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:34. As believers, what is the problem with not awakening to our spiritual sensibilities or not being compliant in the transformation of our minds?

3. The closer we draw to God, the more we become aware of our corrupted condition. How does this knowledge serve to grow our righteousness? (see Titus 2:11-14)

4. In Job 17:9, Job declares the victory of the righteous that is gained by endurance. Living in righteousness is difficult. Why does it get harder and harder to live in righteousness?

EXPERIENCE

1. What can we do to develop an appetite for righteousness? How will the routines of our lives change as a result?

2. Why is it difficult to function around people who take the position, “Do as I say, not as I do.”? Why is it so much easier to trust and follow someone who has good character (eg. a servant-leader)?

3. How will a sustained life of righteous living impact future generations? (see the story of Joseph; Proverbs 11:21)

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Father, my heart longs to move from sinfulness to righteousness. I know that I am made righteous by Jesus, but I also know that in the economy of Your Kingdom, I will reap what I sow – emotionally and spiritually. Please help me to sow good things generously. Use me to sow what pleases the Holy Spirit and not myself.

Action... Are you continually pursuing to live more righteously than you did the day before? In what ways are you putting off the flesh and putting on Christ?