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# Words of Truth

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## The Righteous Lord Loveth Righteousness

By: Brian A. Yeager

The Psalmist wrote: *“In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright”* (Psalms 11:1-7).

The Psalmist said he trusted in the Lord. Trust in the Lord came about because the Lord had a proven record among the faithful. Another Psalm states: *“And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee”* (Psalms 9:10).

During the times the Law of Moses was in effect, the children of Israel depended upon God for their safety (Proverbs 21:31). That safety was contingent upon their obedience (Leviticus 25:18). In our opening text we read that the wicked were readying themselves against the upright in heart. When you learn about the Lord you find that God was not in the figurative corner of the wicked (Isaiah 48:22 and Nahum 1:3). On the other hand, the Lord was very much in the figurative corner of the upright (Psalms 7:10, Psalms 37:37, and Proverbs 10:29).

When you consider contrasting Scriptures concerning the wicked and the righteous, here are a few things you find: *“For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous... Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked... The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy... The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just... The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked”* (Psalms 37:17, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 145:20, Proverbs 3:33, and Proverbs 10:3).

We do not live under the Law of Moses and the prophets today (Hebrews 8:1-10:22). However, there are things to consider from the above Scriptures of old (Romans 15:4).

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## **Taking Into Consideration How God Thinks Now From The Things Of Old**

Today, we [faithful saints] are not part of a physical kingdom like Israel of old (Luke 17:20-21, John 18:36, Colossians 1:12-18, and Hebrews 12:22-28). We have no promise of physical safety. In fact, faithful saints are warned about facing persecution and various tribulations as a result of living faithfully (Matthew 5:10-12, Luke 6:22-23, John 16:1-3, John 16:33, II Thessalonians 1:4-6, II Timothy 1:8-12, II Timothy 2:8-12, II Timothy 3:11-12, I Peter 3:14-18, and I Peter 4:12-16).

What has not changed is that God does not forsake the faithful (Hebrews 13:5-6). Nothing can, aside from our own choices, separate the faithful from God (Romans 8:31-39). In times of old, God gave His faithful physical, earthly rewards (Leviticus 26:1-13). Now, for those of us who love Him and are beloved of Him, our reward is spiritual and eternal (I Peter 1:3-9). Therefore, we can see there are differences in how God aided the righteous of old and those of us whom are righteous now. What was the same then and remains the same now, is that the Lord loves righteousness (Hebrews 1:8-9).

### **God's View Of Righteousness Is Unchanging**

Quoting from the Old Testament, Peter wrote: *“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil”* (I Peter 3:10-12; cf. Psalms 34:12-16).

So, what should we do with the unchanging love for righteousness that our Lord has? The Psalmist said: *“Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times”* (Psalms 106:3). In the New Testament, we read: *“If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him... Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother”* (I John 2:29; 3:7-10).

### **Conclusion**

Heaven is God's house (John 14:1-3). If you want to be there, you ought to get with His program. He loves righteousness. We also read that He certainly does not love the wicked. Therefore, follow after righteousness (I Timothy 6:11 and II Timothy 2:22).