

AN APPETITE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Those truly alive in Christ want to do right. Yes, we struggle, but that is the point. We struggle because we want to do right before God!

Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

To hunger and thirst for something is to desire it with a passion. It is to crave it. Kingdom citizens long for practical “***righteousness***”. They characteristically want to be RIGHT in their walk with God. Paul, in wrestling with sin in himself, said, “what I hate, that I do” (Rom. 7:15). The point is, he hated it when he did wrong. He had a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

When God’s people see wickedness all around it bothers them. Even Lot, compromised as he was by living in the context of Sodom, yet “***tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds***” (2 Pet. 2:8). This defines true kingdom citizens.

2 Peter 3:13 (NKJV)

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth **in which righteousness dwells**.

The deep desire for righteousness will be completely satisfied when the Messiah brings in the kingdom in all its fullness. Then God’s people will be “filled” – that is completely satisfied. That is why John the apostle, having seen the end of the story, said in Revelation 22:20, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

“When people ask me what appeals to me about heaven, it isn’t the streets of transparent gold or gates made of pearls: It’s the absence of sin. I’m tired of sin.” – Dr. John MacArthur

This is the mark of the saved – those who will inherit the kingdom. They long for righteousness – when they will finally be free from their own sin and from all the effects of sin.

1 John 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 3:10 (NKJV)

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.