

Righteous!

“Being Very Good, Excellent, Genuine”

I. SCRIPTURE

Revelation 22:11 NKJV – “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

II. RIGHTEOUS!

One of the most memorable times in my younger life, was the time I spent growing up in Hawaii. After graduating from a boarding high school in Oregon, a friend that I grew up with and his family invited me to come and live with them in Hawaii. I lived there from about June 1973 until the fall of 1974, when I decided to go back to the mainland to attend college. I particularly remember sometimes hanging out with the surfing crowd, and how the surfer lingo often included the word “righteous”. When surfers would experience something very good or excellent, they would use the word righteous to describe it. For example, they would describe the perfect wave that they caught the day before as righteous. They’d say something like, “Hey bra’. Dem waves y’day, dey righteous bra’! Righteous!”

The informal definition of “righteous” is Very Good; Excellent; Genuine.^{1 2} If any of you watched the *Finding Nemo* movie, you might remember the part when Marlin and Dory are trying to get to the Sydney, Australia Harbor and they ran into Crush, the turtle and his bale. You’ll remember that he was the sea turtle who spoke like a surfer dude, who helped Marlin get to Sydney Harbor by giving him a ride on his back, as they caught the EAC (Eastern Australia Current) current. If you saw it, you’d remember that when the current got particularly strong and fast, all that Crush could blurt out to the little dude was “Righteous! Righteous!”. And I can certainly imagine how very good, how excellent, how peculiarly genuine it must have felt for a turtle to experience at particular moment of life at warp speed.

¹ “Righteous” (ADJECTIVE), Oxford Dictionaries-Bing Translator; <https://www.bing.com/search?q=define+righteous&PC=U316&FORM=CHROMN&ajf=100>; retrieved October 17, 2020.

² “Righteous” (adjective), Merriam-Webster; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/righteous>; retrieved October 17, 2020.

If I was hearing this informal term “righteous” used in the Hawaiian pidgin dialect in the 1970’s, you might wonder and I did what the informal origins of this word are. According to the Etymology Dictionary, its informal use began in 1942 as part of Jazz slang, again meaning “genuine, excellent”.³

III. PAUL & THE CORINTHIANS

Last night, I was seeking an appropriate topic and message for our body who are gathered here today. As I prayed, YAHUAH [God] led me to 2 Corinthians 12. As each year here at GFAN ends and a new one begins, I seek out YAHUAH [God] face and ask Him where He intends to lead His body in the year ahead.

Two (2) years ago He told us that it was going to be a year for you and me in which we were to be spiritually strengthened, to find and start using our spiritual gifts for Him, and that we should strengthen and unify our body.

Last year, He told us that the year ahead was going to be a year of hanging on, of us not to be shaken out of His body. And oh... this year... did we not experience a time of shaking? A year it became of not being able, or wanting to congregate? Yep, not to gather together to greet each other with a “holy kiss” of love as we used to do. And to those here today who doubt that we should be *physically* tender with each other, consider that Paul tells the church four times — the Romans, the Corinthians (in today’s focus), and the Thessalonians — to greet one another with a holy kiss. Consider that Peter says to greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Peter 5:14).⁴ For us, based on our local culture and before the COVID-19 pestilence that arrived this year, we would gather together and greet one another with a holy hug, wouldn’t we? Tell me now, how are we going to do that ever again in a virtual gathering? I understand that for the timid and due to the COVID-19, they might dare now to warm up to the “holy hug” by giving one another a loving elbow rub instead... while wearing masks and not breathing on each other. Anyway, who would have foreknew that COVID-19 would be the means where churches and congregations would be torn apart? Where individual members of His body would be frightened away from each other? Or worse yet, that the COVID-19 stay-at-home mentality would be an excuse for some of us not to ever have to go back to church, as was previously our custom.

³ “Righteous (adj)”, Online Etymology Dictionary;

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/righteous#:~:text=righteous%20%28adj.%29%20early%2016c.%20alteration%20of%20rightwise%2C%20from,Meaning%20%22genuine%2C%20excellent%22%20is%201942%20in%20jazz%20slang;> retrieved October 17, 2020.

⁴ “The Holy Kiss – Relevant Today or Not?”, Ask Pastor John, December 3, 2015;

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/the-holy-kiss-relevant-today-or-not>, retrieved October 17, 2020.

For as YAHUSHA [Jesus] custom was, that He went into the temple on the Shabbat [Sabbath] day (John 4:16) and as Paul's custom was, that He went into the temple on the Shabbat [Sabbaths], and reasoned from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating the MESSIAH [Christ]... (Acts 17:2)... I guess we do not now have to follow their example anymore because now... in this year of 2020, we now have COVID-10. How convenient! What a brilliant, intellectual, and very Satanic way for non-religious groups and people to get around the freedom and the law of land that respects the establishment of religion and our right to assemble together!

And now, as the year 5781 has ended, and the year 2020 also now fades away... do not expect some of those who had faithfully gathered together with us before, to ever be faithful at gathering together with us again. And how about you? Are you a part of this change? The answer depends on you, and what you have been doing.

The picture that YAHUAH [God] has provided me of His body at this time is the picture of the church of Corinth, as described in 2 Corinthians 12: full of contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbiting, whisperings, conceits, and tumults (verse 20). In simple English, YAHUAH [God] is telling you and me today that we are in a church still of disagreeing, of arguing, of envying each other because of the achievements and advantages they have over us... that we have trouble controlling our anger, we are full of self-love and self-importance – seeking power, wealth and recognition, gossiping and talking hatefully about others with the intent to devalue the importance of others, thinking ourselves better than them, and agitating one another, and causing confusion and disorder in YAHUAH [The LORD]'s Body... in His church, by our actions. So, can you really blame anyone for thinking: "Thank God! The COVID-19 pestilence has now given me a legitimate reason not to have to congregate with all these hypocrites again!"

IV. THE YEAR AHEAD

And now, for those of you who are still here... who are not insulted by what I am saying, and who are still determined to hang on to YAHUSHA [Jesus] today... hanging on to Him still with all your heart, determined to remain totally devoting to Him... Then, in the new year ahead, you will continue to carry your carefully repentance forward with you... carrying your confession of the year past into a new year... continuing your walk toward Him. For as YAHUAH [God] told us on September 26, we are to remain faithful and true to Him in our walk. We remember His mercy toward us, and we carry it forward with us. So, we are hearing the voice of our Beloved, we have opened the door to Him, and we are dining together with him

now, each and every day, feeding on Him and His words. We are allowing Him to refine us, allowing Him to rebuke and chasten us in Love. We now love Him so much that we are determined to suffer for Him and for others, as covers our wretchedness daily with His mercy and grace toward us.

So now, we are listening to and to giving respectful attention to His every word. We are heeding it, obeying His every command. Our refining by our walk in Him is preparing us to become *uncomfortable!* To *sacrifice!* To be ready to *suffer!* ...and to *serve* Him as He *asks* us. Our lives are now a life of learning to “go and sin no more”! We continue to walk with a ready heart and mind... to suffer and sacrifice for others! Why? Because He, our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ], also suffered and sacrificed Himself for us. We walk forward, step-by-step toward Him... with the help each day of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit].

We recognize now, that as judgment falls on His Body, His Church, that many that we love will fall away from us. We recognize now that a great apostasy is coming... in fact, it has already arrived. But, we choose today and every day ahead to be bold in Him, not to be deceived... but to keep facing Him... to keep walking toward our Betrothed... for we know with certainty now that we are His “bride”, and we are NOT the “harlot” of the world any more.

Yes, this year ahead is the year of perfecting our walk in YAHUAH [God]; the year ahead is a year of “going and sinning no more”, ... the year ahead is the year of being submissive to YAHUSHA [Jesus] as He possesses us and begins the refining process in our lives.

Men here today, just as it is written that wives are to be submissive to their husbands, so now you too are to look at yourself today and each day going forward, as being a wife to MESSIAH [Christ]... you are to be *totally* and *humbly* submissive to Him, allowing Him to have His way with you. No longer are you to be the strong man of the world, where the way is easier, but leads to destruction.

Women here today, are you getting in the way of your men? Maybe in the way of your Husbands, or your children or grandchildren, as they walk toward their Beloved Savior? If so, please get out of their way! Instead of hindering them, instead of trying to interpreting their walk in YAHUSHA [Jesus], allowing Him instead of you, to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, through His Helper: the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit]. For YAHUAH [God] works independently in you and your husband and your children and your grandchildren both to will and to do *His* good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12b, 13) Encourage them now; don’t discourage them.

Men, women, and children here today, this year as you walk in The Way, “do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of YAHUAH [God] without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of MESSIAH [Christ] that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.” (Philippians 2:14-16)

V. CONCLUSION

What I saw first when I took my first glance at 2 Corinthians 12, and later as I started to explore 2 Corinthians, was Paul’s attitude toward their Body. In verse 14 he says, that as he was now ready to visit them for the third time, that he didn’t really want to burden them. He seemed to be feeling as if this 2 Corinthians letter of admonition to them might seem offensive. His harsh tone with them in the last chapters of 10 through 13 was probably written after he received a report that came to him after he had written the first 9 chapters, where he learned that there was a strong and outspoken minority in the Body at Corinth, that were causing trouble there.⁵ But did he hold back after realizing that his tone may be a little strong? Maybe. He concludes in 2 Corinthians 13 by writing this: “this is why I write these (harsh) things when I am absent, that when I come, I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority – the authority YAHUAH [The Lord] gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.” (2 Corinthians 13:10)

So today, as part the Body of MESSIAH [Christ]... similar in many ways to His Body in Corinth, I ask you to do what Paul asked them to do: “examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that HA’MASHIACH YAHUSHA [Christ Jesus] is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Well, what is the test, you might ask, that you might pass or fail? It is to ask yourself:

“Are you a person of disagreement, arguing, envious of others because of the achievements and advantages that they may have over you? Do you have trouble controlling your anger? Are you full of self-love and self-importance? Are you seeking power, wealth and recognition? Do you gossip about others? Do you talk hatefully about others, putting them down? Do you think of yourself better than others? Are you agitating one another, and causing confusion and disorder in YAHUAH [The LORD]’s Body, in His church, by your actions?”

⁵ TNIV Study Bible, (C) 2006, Zondervan, 2 Corinthians Introduction, pp. 1954-1955

To Paul asks the Body in Corinth, I ask you: “do you not realize now that YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [Jesus Christ] is in you? Or have you failed the test?” Decide today before it is too late, whom you will follow and serve. For the time is at hand where “they who are unjust, will be unjust still; they who are filthy, will be filthy still”, but “they who are righteous, will be righteous still; and, they who are holy, will be holy still.”

As these are the words spoken that were spoken by the angel to the Apostle John in the final chapter recording the end of the earth’s history. They are followed by the words of YAHUSHA [Jesus]:

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what they have done.” “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”
(Revelation 22:14)

And “He Who testifies to these things says, ‘yes, I am coming soon.’” (Revelation 22:20a)

And now, may “the grace of our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ] be with His people. Amen.” (Revelation 22: 21)

References & Credits:

- 1 “Righteous” (ADJECTIVE), Oxford Dictionaries-Bing Translator; <https://www.bing.com/search?q=define+righteous&PC=U316&FORM=CHROMN&ajf=100>; retrieved October 17, 2020.
- 2 “Righteous” (adjective), Merriam-Webster; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/righteous>; retrieved October 17, 2020.
- 3 “Righteous (adj)”, Online Etymology Dictionary; [https://www.etymonline.com/word/righteous#:~:text=righteous%20%28adj.%29%20early%2016c.%20alteration%20of%20rightwise%2C%20from,Meaning%20%22genuine%2C%20excellent%22%20is%201942%20in%20jazz%20slang](https://www.etymonline.com/word/righteous#:~:text=righteous%20%28adj.%29%20early%2016c.%20alteration%20of%20rightwise%2C%20from,Meaning%20%22genuine%2C%20excellent%22%20is%201942%20in%20jazz%20slang;); retrieved October 17, 2020.
- 4 “The Holy Kiss – Relevant Today or Not?”, Ask Pastor John, December 3,2015; <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/the-holy-kiss-relevant-today-or-not>, retrieved October 17, 2020.
- 5 “TNIV Study Bible”, © 2006, Zondervan, 2 Corinthians Introduction, pp. 1954-1955

