

Following on from yesterday's Sermon on the "First" - as we begin 2023

- Prioritise the Word of God
- Proclaim His promises
- Passionately Pursue Christ

(Study - Meditate - Proclaim/ Declare the Word)

Today's DEVOTIONAL Monday 2/1/23

Imagine you saw this advertisement for a managerial job -

'Team manager wanted. Must have strong leadership and communication skills. Proficient in Excel and MS programs. Must be righteous.'

You wouldn't see that kind of ad today because the language of "righteous/ righteousness" has fallen out of modern English. For many it sounds like an outdated religious word. Yet, we could actually use a singular word to describe someone who does what is good, with the right motives and purity of heart and care for others. RIGHTEOUS is such a word - the Hebrews use the word TZEDEK, Greeks would say - DIKAIOS - RIGHTEOUS.

Today, there are 3 views about religion in our typical Aussie secular / popular culture that people in ancient times did not share:

1. Religion is OPTIONAL (you can choose to have religion or not)
2. Religion is PRIVATE (not public)
3. Religion is SPIRITUAL (not material)

The Biblical writers and people of God saw the redemptive vision of the GOOD NEWS (the gospel of Jesus Christ) as a world restored to RIGHTEOUSNESS - that all things made right from the total wrongness of sin and wickedness.

So, what is RIGHTEOUSNESS?

(More tomorrow)

For the today READ the whole letter to the Philippians, paying attention to the following passages (see through the lens of 'righteousness' -

1:4-6; 1:10-11; 1:27; 3:4-11,20

(Read a chapter or two at lunch, the rest at night)

PRAY: that God, through His Holy Spirit, will continue to give us His desires and purpose.

DECLARE & MEMORISE: "We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus."