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| **The Righteous Are Becoming Righteous**  *Promise: faith sets us right with God and He also makes us righteous* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Acts 3:11-21; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48 (Third Sunday of Easter), 4/14/24)  *No one who abides in him keeps on sinning. … Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.* – 1Jn 3:6-7  **Lead In –** The Bible in both the Old and the New Testaments has no trouble in using language distinguishing between the righteous and the unrighteous. It also distinguishes between believers and unbelievers; and between those who do good works and those who are wicked and do evil. This is not at odds with the insistence that we are saved by faith and not by deeds of righteousness. And it is important that we understand that it is not at odds!   1. **What Christ’s Passion and Resurrection Means**    1. That repentance and forgiveness be proclaimed…    2. How this plays out in Acts 3… “killed the author of life”    3. Repentance and forgiveness is meant for you… 2. **Repenting and Believing Are Ongoing**    1. Greek grammar, the present and aorist tense of verbs…    2. Why do Lutherans do so much confessing of sins?    3. Do not be deceived about persistent wickedness! 3. **The Unrighteous Will Not Inherit God’s Kingdom**    1. Three clear statements stating as much…    2. Difference between the righteous and unrighteous…    3. God both forgives and removes our sins…   **Final Word –** Friends in Christ, there are some who don’t like the saying, “Hate the sin, love the sinner.” But that pretty much sums up God’s love for us. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Jesus bled and died to take away our sin. He paid this price to justify sinners, and not to justify sin. Sin is treated as a disease in the Bible, and a fatal disease at that. We who are in love with our sins need a divine work done in our lives so that we begin to loathe what sin is doing in and through us. The power of Christ’s death and resurrection is that divine work! And it can bring us to repentant faith so that those declared righteous are also being made righteous.  **Lk 24:46-47** [He] said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  **Ac 3:12** And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”  **Ac 3:14-16** But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.  **Mk 1:15** [Jesus proclaimed] “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”  **1Jn 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. | **1 John 3:1-7 ESV**  *Children of God*  1See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.  4Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.  **Acts 3:17-21 ESV**  *Repent and Believe*  17“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.  **Ga 6:7-8** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.  **1Co 6:9-10** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.  **Ep 5:5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.  **Ga 5:21b** I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. |