## How to make your way right

(Pro 11:5) The righteousness of the perfect <u>shall make his way right</u>, but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, "How can I make the things wrong in my life right?" Well, you are not alone. I believe everyone is asking that guestion. It is easy to see what is wrong-habits, temper, lack, sickness, depression. These are easy to see but what is not, is how to make them right. If you go to the nearest bookstore you will find bookshelves filled with self help books to make these wrong things right in your life. You can even go to the Christian bookstores and find books that will give you formulas to make these things right. However, let me suggest a novel idea! How about look at what the Bible says about what will make these things right. In Proverbs 11 we see it says that the righteousness of the perfect shall make his way right. Now looking at this verse it there appears to be a contradiction. It says that the righteousness of the **PERFECT** will make his way **RIGHT**. You would think that if you were perfect then there would be no need to make your way right. This is like the old saying, I thought I was wrong once, but I was wrong! What is this verse really saying? First of all the word righteousness means right standing or to be as you ought to be and does not refer to behavior. Behavior comes from righteousness but righteousness is not behavior. You are either righteous or not righteous. In the New Testament it says in **Romans 5:17** that righteousness has been given to each believer as a gift! This means we have been declared and made just as we ought to be by the gift of righteousness given to us by Christ. We have become the righteousness of God in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:21)

The problem with so many is that they try to become as they ought to be by their own efforts. They try to rectify all that is wrong in them by exercising their will power and energy. People try to overcome habits by trying to resist them and using will power to overcome them. They think once they do this they will be as they ought to be. Some are working long hours trying to make it in the business world thinking that when they make enough money then they will be as they ought to be. Many are trying real hard to eat all the right things in order to make their body as it ought to be.

Some might seem to succeed for a time but when they stop putting in all the hard work then things revert back to the old way. What we need is not temporary outward change but permanent inward change (mind renewal) concerning righteousness that leads to outward change. What will truly make our way right. **It is righteousness! It is the GIFT of righteousness**. When you stop trying in your own efforts to make your way right and accept by faith that you are just as you ought to be by the finished work of Christ then that righteousness will start working in you to make you way right. This righteousness will be worked out in your by the Holy Spirit. It will start working to make your mind and thinking right. It will start to make your actions right. It will start to make your body right. Change involves outward changes, but TRANSFORMATION comes from the inside out. Transformation is what will last and give true freedom. What will bring a real and lasting difference in our lives and make it right? It is understanding and acting upon the gift of righteousness given to us because of what Jesus did for us at the cross.

The righteousness of the **PERFECT** will make our way right. Many are trying real hard to be perfect. Let me help you out. Stop trying because you will never be able to reach perfection in your efforts. But I do have good news for you. You can enjoy being perfect however!

(Heb 10:14 ESV) For by a single offering he <u>has perfected</u> for all time those who are being sanctified.

Do you know that if you are saved then you have been perfected? How is this? You have been given the perfect righteousness of Jesus. When he died on the cross He took your sins and you got His righteousness- everything that was right about Him! **Now that is a deal**! If you but renew your mind to the fact that you are just as you ought to be and that you are just like God then it will start making a difference in your life. You will stop trying to make things right in your life. Instead righteousness will start making your way right! Once you stop striving in your own efforts to make yourself righteous- as you ought to be- then God is free to start working in you powerfully to cause you to will and do of His good pleasure. (**Phil 2:13**) God will then start changing your desires and want to's. You will start seeing the Spirit of God put to death the deeds of your flesh and start producing the fruit of the Spirit- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

The only thing that is wrong in our life that can't be rectified by God's power is self righteousness. It is when we go to establish our own righteousnesstry to be as we ought to be in our own efforts- is when we frustrate the grace of God. God's power is stopped when we try to establish our own righteousness instead of submitting to the righteousness that comes from God as a GIFT. (**Romans 10:3-4**) Too often we trust more in rules and our own efforts to make our life right than God's grace and righteousness. Stop worrying about what is wrong in your life and accept what is right in your life- that you are perfectly righteous because of Christ! Just focus on that day and night and you will start to see marvelous transformations in your life. You will see desires for bad things fall away and new godly desires develop. Stop trying to follow rules you have set up to harness your flesh. Just focus on righteousness and it will harness your flesh! God's righteousness WILL make your way right!

**Confession**: I am righteous- I am just as I ought to be by a gift of God's grace. Jesus has made me just as I ought to be. Because I am righteous I am perfect in Christ. God's righteousness is me is working in me to make my way right. God's righteousness is making my thoughts right, my actions right, my body right. God get all the glory! Amen!