

Pursue Righteousness, Not Food

The pursuits of man are many, and some are for the essentials of life such as food. From Creation man has been expected of God to labor diligently to provide for his needs - not only for his wants (Genesis 3:17; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10). Yes, as responsible image-bearers of our Creator, we are to pursue labors that put food on the table. Godliness works at doing what is good in order that he may reap the good fruit of what is being sown.

The danger before all men is that the cares and concerns of life can become distractions to what man's true ambition ought to be. Men can become consumed with being consumers. Without watchfulness, the mind and the heart become short-sighted, simply listening and reacting to the appetites of the physical body.

The Lord Jesus Christ unashamedly has commanded that righteousness is to be a priority - a priority above man's worries over food, clothing and shelter (Matthew 6:22). Righteousness is more than not sinning or simply doing what is right. It is the overall principle and measure - the heavenly ideal - that stems from our holy God. We are to cultivate a desire for it, and we are to continually seek it. A person is definitely not seeking righteousness, if he is chasing after sinful pleasures. But the pursuit for righteousness is more extensive than refraining from doing bad things. This endeavor is a passionate pursuit for God who is righteous and for everything He loves and desires.