

Mark - cont.

by obeying God's standard of righteousness - his law (v. 31; Acts 11:35; Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-22; 6:16-18; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 11:4). The righteous man also:

- Follows the righteous Godhead (1 Peter 1:16).
- Displays the righteous Bible character (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:8-9).
- Is a member of the righteous New Testament church (Matthew 16:18).
- Lives the righteous Christian life today (Philippians 2:15; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:11-12).

Friend, you can "mark the righteous man" and you can be righteous yourself (1 Jn. 2:29; 3:7). After you become righteous, don't leave your righteous way (2 Peter 2:21). Live the righteous life all the way to your heavenly reward (Mt. 25:46)!

- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

How, as a Christian, can I be of the most use to Jesus this week? How can I be useful to Jesus? Have I ever thought about that? Jesus wants to use me this week to accomplish his work on this earth. But, Jesus cannot use me if I am living in sin and living like the world. Read 2 Timothy 2:21 this week and think about it. I have to first cleanse myself from sin and be sanctified (set apart), THEN I will be useful to the Master (Jesus) and ready unto every good work. Cleanness leads to usefulness.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Mark the Righteous Man

*Mark the perfect man,
and behold the upright;
For there is a happy end
to the man of peace.*

- Psalm 37:37 -

Who do you look as for your example in life? Who is your role model? Many look to athletes, TV, movie, or music stars, etc., as their role models.

But, the psalmist David said in Psalm 37:37 to mark or take note of righteous man. When a person is surrounded by sin in this world it is easy to get one's eyes off of what is important. It is easy to get consumed with all the problems and perils of life. But, we do not have to get sidetracked by the sin around us. We can focus on what is right and on people who are living right.

Psalm 37 discusses the security of the righteous and the insecurity of the wicked. The wicked will be punished by God, but the righteous will be reward by God. We have to stay focused on the righteous. The

wicked are successful, but one day they will have their judgment from God (vv. 35-38). So, what are we to do in the meantime? We are to “mark the righteous man” (v.37). We are to watch carefully the righteous man. What can we learn from this statement?

We have to decide who we will look to for our example in life; for our standard of character. As I mentioned above, who is your hero, your role-model? Is it some one in the media, Hollywood celebrities, friends and family, or scholars and authorities? Who is it that you emulate and esteem?

We must not look to the wicked for our example of character. Consider a few points that David makes about the wicked:

- Don't be envious of them. They look good, but they will be punished one day (v.1; Proverbs 24:19).
- Don't desire their fortune. What they have is nice, but it will not last (v. 16; Proverbs 15:16).
- Don't join them. They may be pop-

ular, but they are not right with God (v. 27; Proverbs 1:10).

On the other hand, we need to be looking carefully at the righteous man who walks uprightly in God's sight. He will be happy and a man of peace. So, who are the righteous? That's a good question. Let's let the Bible answer that question.

First of all, the righteous man is not the self-righteous man (Luke 18:9). There's a difference between righteous and self-righteous. A self-righteous man is confident that he is good and right with God when he is really not.

The righteous man is also not the human righteousness man (Romans 10:3). There's a difference between God's righteousness (God's plan to make man right, Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-22) and man's righteousness (man's plan to make himself right).

So, who is the righteous man? Well, according to David, the righteous man has been made righteous