

Machine generated transcript - So hey guys. You might have noticed I'm not Jason and married couple start to look like each other after a while but I hope I don't look like Jason. No friends having a love you. As many of you know Jason is in Slovakia with the missions team along with John so there's a lot of things that are different here tonight today. And that's OK right so OK we're good right and it's OK to Absence makes the fart. You know what's so funny you know what's so funny my sister tells this joke OK OK now I have to tell the joke I'm sorry it's part of humor but I just said fart so I'm going to say that I'm told you. My sister had this joke from when she was like three years old and she was so cute saying it chubby cheeks and she'd be like. Let me think it goes I wasn't planning on telling this joke because it's part of you OK So oh OK so I had this tooth and it kept going making this weird sound going Honda Hondo and I went to the dentist and I asked my dentist why is my two thing Honda and she said Well I think you have an abscess because abscess makes the tooth go harmed and so I don't know I was thinking you know. And then it turned as we got into being teenagers that turned into makes the fart go Honda because that rhymes better and may Yeah and so abscess makes the fart go hand. Bring it back around I'm sorry. Yeah let's shake it off. Anyway so like another thing you might notice is you know some people have like. Their normal self and their public speaking self Jason has that I mean it's not fake it's OK I like rain or is it just me kind of feel like I'm like kind of hurting my own ears. Anyway so like public speaking self and then regular self it's just the way they talk I do God forgot to install mine so this is how I am if we were getting coffee so let's just let's just have coffee. Is that that's what I that's what I got OK So Jason when talking about foundations the foundations of the Christian walk foundations of serving Jesus the basics and it's helpful for new Christians you know it's obviously a political for someone that's just starting out but I think also for those of us who have been serving God for a long time we can start to get lazy in some areas and I mean are we right I do so I think it's a good reminder also for some of us that when doing a long time I know what some of you have been doing a lot longer than I have I'm not trying to act like I'm that experience but I can get lazy I can get comfortable and so these reminders are good for me to do this and it is sermon is a little bit. A little bit so not to say out loud last time I preached our priest on a lot of because that's super fun to talk about you know what I mean I could talk about love all day long I'm going to hurt anybody's feelings if anybody so I did that last time but the honeymoon is over talking about righteousness. So righteousness we're still friends well I'll ask again if you don't. Write just living it's tough being and it's tricky to define right it's tricky to define because no one's really righteous right well I'm not. Before we dive in NO I kind of want to pray I want to pray for this team is lucky and I want to pray for kids camp tomorrow I mean some of those kids have never been away from home and you know there's a lot of crying and homesickness but I know they have a lot of fun too and I just want to pray for a show OK as I went to kids camp once a leader and. I just don't really want to again and so we need to pray for a shell this week so let's go to pray Lord thank you for this day thank you for the people that came today even though Jason is not here just to hear me and I pray that I will say anything that is not within your will or God I pray that you would stop me from saying anything stupid again and. Help me to remember to say everything that you want said Lord and I pray that the team in Slovakia I pray that you would give that blessing your pretty would give favor with the people there I pray that their work would be productive and efficient Lord and that the hearts of the people would be be willing to accept their message and I also pray for the hearts of the people on the team that you would change them forever and that you would bless them for their for their ministry Lord and keep them safe and for the kids going to camp tomorrow I pray the same thing that you keep them safe and I pray that you minister to their hearts and and lead them in the direction that you have in front of them for their lives are that you would call them some of them I believe would be called a ministry and some of them I know will probably accept you and I think that's awesome I just pray that your hand would be on them and you be watching over them when Rachelle bless Rachelle give her patience courage peace and rest Jesus name. So righteousness let's just jump right in and I got a lot of scripture but they're all kind of in too little you see my little marks there into little slivers of scripture so let's turn first to first John and I feel like. He introduces this better than I could I Jason and I recently in our own devotions were

going through first second third John and I only it was a couple months ago but he would I think it was just starting the foundations series and I was feeling like wow John talks a ton about righteousness and it can be some time something that we read and we're like oh yeah God wants us to be righteous and then we move on you know we don't sometimes let it sink in and so I was feeling like this would really be a great add on to the foundations series because righteousness is important. We can talk about loving grace all we want and love and raise our. Essential and they are absolutely God and His character and I'm not trying to discount that but we're lying to ourselves if we believe that God doesn't also care what we do right and I think sometimes we can get caught up in that lie believing that you know God's grace God's grace cover is God doesn't love me any less if I said he doesn't love me any lies and those things are true but he still cares what we do he still cares how we live he still cares you know what we spend our time thinking about things like that so that's we're talking about space let's start first John three ten will be my opening. My introduction. So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil and he one who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God So that's pretty blunt I mean that's really black and white and it's not that he's a sugar coat that all like that's kind of a hard pill to swallow actually because it's like boom you don't look you don't live righteously you don't love other believers you are not a follower of got period and then he like changed topics and moves on and it's like whoa really. Because sometimes we can be Christians who aren't choosing righteousness or are loving other believers and what does that mean for us so it's a tricky thing I. It's a tricky thing and honestly I felt I felt convicted when I was reading through first John myself because he hammers it home like there is no room for misunderstanding here like he hammers home the idea of righteousness and following God's word and obeying God's law over and over and over again. And I couldn't escape it so that's why I felt like God was telling me that's what I should say today what I should talk about today. Let's start by defining righteousness what is righteousness we all know I mean a hopefully we all know we can't be perfect we can't be perfect if you don't know that we can't be perfect we can't you can be serving God for eighty years you could be reading your bible for hours a day and praying in tongues for eight hours a day you'll still never be perfect I mean this side of heaven we won't be and that's OK That's not what he expects of us. Let's also one first John let's turn to first John one. Verse five this is a long portion of Scripture I'll read out loud but I this is kind of the whole this is the kind of the basis for my entire message this section of scripture so we're going to read from chapter one verse five to chapter two verse six so it's a long strapping this is the message we heard from Jesus and I declare to you. Heart God is light I'm sorry there is no darkness in him at all we are all lying if we say we have fellowship with God but we go on living in spiritual darkness we are not practicing the truth but if we are living in the light as God is in the light then we have fellowship with each other and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin if we claim we have no sin we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth but if we confess our sins to Him He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and the cleanse us for all wickedness if we claim we have not seen and we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts Chapter two my dear children I am writing this to you still that you will not sin but if anyone does and we have an advocate who pleads our case before the father he is Christ Jesus the one who is truly righteous he himself is the sacrifice that it tells for our sins and not only our sins but the sins of all the world and we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments if someone claims I know I but doesn't obey God's commandments that person is a liar and not living in the truth but those who obey God's word truly show us how completely they love him and this is how we know we are living in Him Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did so. Defining righteousness for us what does it mean to be righteous for us so put a pin in that first second there are we all have a thing well have a thing I know some of you guys thing. I'm terrified of water I don't like water either I mean I just I don't really want to overcome that fear because I don't enjoy water I hate water I hate everything to do with it I don't like I like to drink it that's it I don't like being in it I don't like being around it I'm scared of it. I don't enjoy water it's not my thing I know you guys have things but I'm tempted to call a couple now but I maybe I won't OK so another

one of my friends though is mice I feel differently about mice than I do about water because I'm not afraid of them necessarily I hate them i hate him with the fire of a Thousand Suns I hate mice I am like. You can't overestimate how much I hate mice. You know like a spider spider crawls across the wall the other side of the room sometimes I'm like Is it worth getting up you know I can squish it but with my bare hands I'm all right bugs are OK snakes I mean I don't love snakes but whatever. Mice mice so if I I see the tiniest little evidence you know the evidence I speak of you see a little a little pellets somewhere and you're like everybody stop what you're doing is this interim government did this come off of somebody's issue or is this mouse poo because we are turning this house upside down until we get to the model of it and one of the kids is like I think it's a raise and they. Don't get. The up so my family can attest from the first sign of evidence until So they hear the sweet sound of a snap we do not rest we do not enjoy a meal we do not because you know it's like they. Kept their stupid little gross possible over every dish in the cupboard and food and. I want to burn the house down every time we have a mouse and. I hate them i hate them so much and so it's like you know you're lying in bed after you know you have a mouse and you can hear it in the vents and you're like ready to take a sledgehammer to the wall and get that stupid thing out and then you know maybe you started to those off and then you hear it. Yes And then it's like an Easter egg hunt going through the house looking for the dead mouse like where are. You that you wish you had gone to this house then. I hate mice hate them i hate them i hate them that story had a point I was thinking about it when I was reading reading through for sure and because I found something that I suspected was evidence and I was having trouble focusing on my body focusing because of the mouse I don't think it was I think it was something else but I'm still not completely sure anyway but I was thinking about the mice and I was thinking about righteousness of the same time and I kind of spoke to my heart what if you hated sin. The way you hated that mouse in your house and I thought whoa. Ouch. But that's pretty good isn't it I mean. When there's a mouse in my house I can't enjoy a meal I can't get a good night's sleep I can't fully devote myself to my family I can't think fully about anything else because I know there's a mouse in my house and I can't stand it and if I felt that way about San. My heart would be so much more in tune with God in it if sin irked me and bowed to me and awed at me till I got it out you know what I mean just that nagging tension of this cannot stay the way that I feel when there's a mouse scurrying in the vents I should feel that way about since scurrying around my heart but sometimes I make it a little bed and I ask it if it wants to stay be my pet and the thought of doing that with a mouse makes me want to throw up because I hate them and I know sometimes I feel like I just have become too comfortable with myself and my alone yeah thanks. So that's my definition of righteousness I know that there's better definitions the dictionary probably doesn't have anything about mile story. But that's how I feel like God was showing me what he wants for me when he asks me to be righteous. Next why should we live righteously and I mean there's always reasons. Sin has no place in the heart of a believer but there's lots and lots and lots lots of reasons I could go through a ton but I've picked out five. The first one is power in your prayers Let's turn to James the book of James Chapter five verse sixty James five sixteen says confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results and I think we've all seen that. Around us haven't we we all know someone who's like wow that person prays and God works and you're like Oh give me whatever you have and it's like that person is living righteous life that person has followed God for probably a long time and they've been been getting their life closer and closer and closer to Jesus this whole time and it's it's a cool thing power and prayer we all want that right so another reason is to set an example so others we can turn to first Peter chapter three first Peter tractor three Verse sixteen it's funny Jason referenced this portion of Scripture verses thirteen fourteen fifteen in another one of these series sermons in this series. About being ready to give an answer that's the verses right before this so the verse is right after the whole be ready to give an answer thing. First Peter three sixteen but do this in a gentle and respectful way keep your conscience clear then if people ask you they will be ashamed when they see you what a good life you live because you belong to Christ and what is that saying that saying someone who attacks you or come after you for some

reason will have no ammunition because you've lived an honest your life. And I think that's a valuable guy I don't want to have anyone give anyone any reason to attack me. Craig could you turn that clock ever so slightly there's a glare and I can't see what time it is and I don't want to preach too long in the afternoon OK we're good OK Another reason is to have a clear conscience. I often pray for my children and for my husband and for myself that our conscience our conscience is would be so sensitive that the slightest hint of conviction would literally make us physically sick. Is that a bad thing to pray for your children but I pray for myself too I don't want the conviction of the Holy Spirit to make me sick I want the Holy Spirit to convict me in such a strong way that I cannot live with it. Because I don't want to live with it and I think sometimes we can we can push the Holy Spirit aside pretty easily He's a gentle and he works in a very very gentle slow way and it's easy. To push into the back burner sometimes and so I pray often. Let the conviction of the Holy Spirit eat us alive because when we become callous to the conviction of the Holy Spirit what hope do we have left I think that's a dangerous dangerous place to live when we are callous to the conviction of the Holy Spirit so a clear conscience first John again chapter three. Verse twenty one. First John three twenty one. Twenty two also I suppose dear friends Oh I'm sorry Oh that's right you have dear friends if we don't feel we'll see if we can come to God with bold confidence and we were received from him what we ask because we obey Him and do the things that please him I like the idea of being able to come to God with bold confidence and sometimes I don't Sometimes I cower and I come to him like and ashamed to child and I should but by having that clear conscience gives us the ability to come to God with boldness and to ask for the things that that not like you don't necessarily material things I don't think that's what he's talking about here but we're asking for things like healing or asking for things like blessing your protection on our family her friends or you know things like that I want that boldness and this Scripture seems to say that keeping a clear conscience is what can give us that boldness So I think that's a cool thing another reason he just wants what's best for us and sin is just dropped it to us and blessings come conversed really when we honor God by obeying his word right and I don't even think I need a Scripture because you guys all know that's true right you can just see that that's common sense but I'll give you scripture anyway Proverbs. Proverbs eight thirty two through thirty six. And so my children listen to me when I say that twice Proverbs eight thirty two through thirty six still they are wrestling away. As a thirty two through their six and so and listen to me for all who follow my ways are joyful listen to my instruction and be wise don't ignore it joyful are those who listen to me watching for me daily at my gates waiting for me outside my home for whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord but those who miss me injure themselves and all who hate me love death so God blesses us he wants what's best for us he wants to give us good things and he doesn't want to see is destroyed and sin is destructive to us and righteousness is is a blessing to us and so he wants to protect us another reason is because he said So you go tell your kids to go put their shoes on and they won't but why because I said so. Because I know what's best for you because I am the one that is in charge of your life because I said so he says So let's turn solemnly one nineteen. Psalm one nineteen verse ninety seven and keep your bible open to Psalm one nineteen because we're going to come back to sec. One thousand nine hundred ninety seven. Oh how I love your instructions I think about them all day long and there's so many Psalms so many songs were David is just like pouring out his love for God and so many times he says things like I love your instructions I love your law I love your commandments I think about them all day long. Do we talk to go out that way I mean I usually don't I'm going to be honest do you get his I mean I talk about how much I love God I talk about how much I love his forgiveness and His mercy and his his kindness and his generosity towards me but I don't typically think to thank him for his commandments but they even does and I find that interesting. Over and over and over again David. So I think that's that's convicting to me so in Psalm one nineteen also stay there let's move on now how to live righteously we talked about what is right just this we talked about why we should live righteously how do we do that this is a little bit easier said than done right but I think there's one clear obvious thing that if we're not doing we're never going to be successful or righteous living and that is to be God's word how could we ever even pretend to care about following God's law if we are

not reading His word right and I'm talking to myself here too because there have been times in my life where I am I'm searching searching God searching for God's answers searching for his Will praying to him asking for him to speak to me or to leave me at times in my life when I'm not in His Word and he's like Man I already told you it's right there and you are it's collecting dust on your shelf instead of being absorbed into your heart and so I think righteousness began with knowing God's word and if we don't know it we can never ever attain it anything close to living like him right we have to be in his word all of us we have to we have to we have to this is our life blood as Christians but he said so much to us so so much to us and sometimes we don't even know it's there we stumble across something what they are like Oh my goodness wow that's for me and how long has it been in there it's been in there for two thousand years waiting for the day when you'd open it up and see it and be like oh god thank you. It's not who all this so who all and we are so west we are so blessed to live in a in a country where I have ten of these in my house actually probably more than that especially including all the children's Bibles and stuff like that we have free easy access any time of the day or night to God's word in its entirety is that not something to be thankful for I mean that is so such a blessing that not every Christian has had and we need to not take that for granted. So we need to be in God's word some one nineteen verse nine and. Will read verse nine through verse sixteen. Jason drinks water here but I said I don't drink anything do but coffee before noon that's not right OK how can a young person stayed here by obeying your word I have tried hard to find you don't let me wander from your commands I have hidden your word of my heart that it might not sinned against you I praise you a Lord teach me your decrees I had oversight allowed all the regulations you have given us I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in ridges I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways I will delight in your decrees not forget your word that is so inspiring and I want to and the little point that on a pillow. I don't know how to feel points so probably won't. How to live righteously being God's work or the other thing that I want to say about how to live righteously Well let's just turn second Timothy Chapter two. A second time and be in Chapter two verse twenty one twenty one and twenty two second Timothy two twenty one and twenty two if you keep yourself pure You will be a special utensil for honorable use your life will be clean and you will be ready for the master to use you for every good work run from anything that stimulates youthful loss instead pursue righteousness pursue righteous living faithfulness love and peace enjoy the companionship of those who call in the Lord with pure hearts. Other translations say to run from temptation I don't think that when they're saying you follow us they're just talking about sexual things I think that youthful lust can be anything greed it can be any any kind of temptation and it doesn't say void anything that stimulates youthful lives or you know walk right past it but don't linger too long oh is this run run. I think it's interesting he doesn't say turn around walk away run he uses the word riot and every translation that I looked up also said run so for the morning away from one thing we've got to be running towards something else right so we need to fix our eyes when Jesus let's turn to let's go Hebrews twelve back this way Hebrews twelve verse one and verse two Therefore since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith let us strip off every weight that slows us down especially the sin that so easily traps us let us run with indifference the race the God has set before us we do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus the champion who initiate and perfect our faith. Let's turn to another one proverbs for the act of Proverbs if you don't want to look this one up is just short Proverbs four twenty five so look straight ahead fix your eyes on what lies before you so if you were explaining to a four year old. What a race is which I recently had the pleasure of doing how I was running for the thirty for freedom and you know I didn't even realize we've been talking about this race on race day and all the stuff in the film was like What's a race and trying to explain why you would ever want to even race to a four year old who's you know she's looking at me like that doesn't sound like fun but whatever. Anyway you wouldn't explain to a four year old you wouldn't say OK we're all going to land here now the goal of this is to get as far away from the start why and as fast as you can No you would say you want to run to that client to the finish line and get there is fast if you can't be for the other kids that's the point of race right now whatever explain it by saying get as far away from the start as you possibly can

which is technically true but that's not how you would say it because our common sense says run towards the finish line yet towards the goal you don't try and distance yourself from what's behind you don't run like this you keep your eyes on the prize and you go for it right you see you focus in your any coach would say the same thing keep your eye on the ball right coaches. Keep your eyes on the finish line when I was running that race Oh my goodness about mile it was and I was like What was I thinking this is terrible. And every time there was a corner I was thinking to myself Oh if I could just see that finish line and I just want to see if I can see it I think I can make it not. Finally even Finally one corner turned around and I saw the finish line is like my kid standing there who's like kind of fresh new fresh new jolt of energy and I was like OK I'm not going to die I can do this and keep your eyes on the finish line and you can watch what's behind you can't worry about what's back there and if we're running towards Jesus temptation will be behind us and it'll fall further and further and further further further back right. I think that's also OK So another theme that is in first John that also convicted me was he intertwines them as if they go together. For other Christians and I think it's interesting like John knew that we couldn't do this by ourselves right we need each other we need each other bad. We need each other to say you're being stupid when you're being stupid right we need each other to say good job when you're doing a good we need each other and so he says over and over and over probably fifty times in five chapters love other Christians love your fellow believers don't hate the enemy and even go as far as to say if you hate other believers you're not walking in the light and I think that's a really good heart check because a lot of times we can feel like this is a solo race and it's not we need each other we need the people in this room I need you guys and I think it's cool in droplets those two together righteousness Jason's been talking a lot about growing guide and Richelle is actually my preach more on that next week but I think these two things go hand in hand with growing got it right we need each other to help us live righteously we sometimes don't see things in our own lives and we need someone to teach us how to do things how to live more like Jesus we need examples to follow and we also need to be leading someone else so I think it's cool how these things are going hand in hand and I think it's cool how God designed it that way. Greg if you could get a song ready just some soft music I would like to wrap up and. I would just like us all to think about righteousness what it means to be righteous what. Do we. Like a mouse in our house do we and I mean maybe you don't care about my spare house or maybe you have a different thing but you know do I feel that way also do I feel that way. When sin has crept into my heart. In a way that I can't rest and I can't think about other things and I can't focus I can't concentrate on anything else until it's gone and I don't just do it out and give it a nice home in the country are things die and you pay the price come into my house you will not leave a lot. And should I feel that way about sin shouldn't I feel that way about anything any unrighteousness that's in my heart. So I would like to just take a minute I'm not going to do like an altar call the way Jason does I just want to take a quiet minute each of us alone in our seat to just let God speak to us. About something that maybe has crept into our hearts. Maybe love for another believer that's lacking with a certain salacious shift. Or maybe a sin that has gotten comfortable we've gotten comfortable with it we've made a little bed. And then our clothes and we'll be done and. Yeah let's just take a moment the music's going to play no one has a stand. Just take quietness. And. Guy thank you so much for sending your son. To die for us a little we can be in right relationship with you thank you for paying the price that we couldn't pay. For it because we didn't have enough to give in the first place. And I'm so thankful that you don't expect perfection out of us and then we do have an advocate. Who's pleading on our behalf. And thank you also Lord that we have each other. Thank you that we have other believers that we complete on willingly don't know what to do or when we're stumbling where when we're struggling. Help us to be united as a group help us to to be united as believers and to and to truly be a family to truly be the Body of Christ. Are so thankful for everything that you've given us the blessings that overflow and. I pray to you help us to always remember to be thankful and to always remember to trust you and to. Remember to be in your word was never neglect your words thank you so much for giving it to us Lord. We love you we praise you we thank you Jesus name for a name and.