

In No Case

In Matthew 5:1 we are told that Jesus, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain: and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him and He taught them many things as He preached what has come to be known as The Sermon on the Mount. In the 20th verse of this chapter He taught that except their righteousness exceeded the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees they would “in no case” enter into the kingdom of heaven.

I believe the “kingdom” spoken of here is referring primarily to the gospel church, but I believe it could be applied equally to heaven itself, for if a man never has any righteousness but his own, which is all the scribes and Pharisees had, then he will never see God in peace.

The essence of it is that the only righteousness that ever could or would stand anyone in good stead before the judgment bar of God’s justice is the imputed righteousness of Christ. That righteousness which men “go about to establish” (See Rom. 10:3) is of no use whatsoever in that regard. The law of God is perfect, and it requires a perfect obedience, and the only man who could render that kind of obedience was Christ. He perfectly fulfilled that requirement and He imputes His righteousness to each member of the elect family. Thus we read that “as by one man’s disobedience (Adam’s) many were made sinners (by imputation), so by the obedience of one (Christ) many shall be made righteous (by imputation). –Rom. 5:19. “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift” (II Cor. 9:15).---**Elder Ralph Harris**