**Christ’s Righteousness Gifted**

**Philippians 3:9 / January 5th, 2024**

**READING THE TEXT**

**Philippians 3:9-10 and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ’s faithfulness—a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ’s faithfulness. Vs 10 My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings, and to be like him in his death,…**

**INTRODUCTION**

Philippians 3:9 is a summary of the doctrine of imputed righteousness taught in Romans. The words ***“not because I have my own righteousness”*** indicates that Paul received a righteousness that is alien to him. His righteousness is not based on his following the law but on the work of Jesus applied to him. In this passage there is a contrast between self-righteousness and righteousness given to us by God. The premise of Paul is that God is pleased with His own righteousness, not ours. In God’s eyes our righteousness does not meet the standard to earn eternal life. Since that is true our goal should be to have God transfer his righteousness to our account, our motives, and our deeds. His righteousness working in our lives.

**PREACHING THE TEXT**

**Vs 9** **be found in him…because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ’s faithfulness—a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ’s faithfulness.**

TO BE FOUND IN HIM

What does it mean to “be found in him?” To be “in Him” means that we have taken seriously God’s call to find salvation in Jesus Christ. Here is the prayer of Jesus for believers.

**John 17:21-22 says …they will all be one, just as you, Father are in me and I am in you. I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. Vs 22 The glory you gave to me I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one – vs 23 I in them and you in me.**

Being “in Him” means that we are bonded to Jesus in a similar way that Jesus is bonded to the Father. Jesus gives us his glory, which I think is the presence of the Holy Spirit so that we are in Christ. We trusted Jesus to save us from our sin and we repented of being the god of our own lives and asked Jesus to take control of our lives. God accepts our repentance and sends the Holy Spirit to connect us to him so we can be “in Him.”

This all happens by faith. The bible says, ***“the just shall live by faith.”*** To be “in Christ” means we have placed our faith in Jesus.

Steps of Faith

* Faith is trust and belief in God and who He says he is
* Faith is trust and belief in God’s ability to do what he promises
* Faith and belief that saves us is faith that remains in the face of doubt and negative circumstances.

 *Example*: Abraham believed God would raise Isaac from the dead.

 Paul was addressing those who refused to trust Jesus for salvation. They could do just fine without him. They would try to save themselves by obeying the laws they knew about, and by being basically good and righteous people. Paul confronts their lack of faith in Christ and tells them “It is not working!”

 Paul is making the same points that he made in Romans chapter 2. Here is the point of Romans chapter 2.

**Romans 2:1-16**

The (self-righteous) moral person lives only to self. They don’t want God’s help to be saved. They will save themselves and take pride in how awesome they did. But here is the problem with the approach of trying to save ourselves without God’s help and without God’s grace.

1. Your standards fall short of God’s
2. You do not live by your own standards. No one can.

If you say you live by the ‘Golden Rule’: do you really do unto others (always) how you would like to be treated?

If you say you live by Fair Play: Do you always play fair (act justly)?

If you say you live by the 10 Commandments: None of us keep them always.

 Example: King David was confronted by Nathan the Prophet for not living up to the standards.

Faith Basis: Testimony of God

 Faith is, in a sense, belief in God’s testimony. Denying reality (or blind faith) is not true faith. But those who have faith in Jesus express faith in the testimony of Jesus. Jesus obeyed the golden rule and the ten commandments and fair play and every other standard of righteousness. Faith is believing the testimony of Jesus Christ and trusting his testimony to save us. Trusting his testimony to save us. How does the testimony of Jesus save us? What does His testimony (of faithfulness) have to do with us? The next phrase reveals more.

RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY WAY OF CHRIST’S FAITHFULNESS

This is an interesting phrase. How does my righteousness come into existence based on Christ’s faithfulness. Christ is faithful, and we know that. But how does that make me righteous or appear as my righteousness as if I were the one acting perfectly like Him? How does the performance of Jesus get credited to me?

Jesus Christ was the only man who lived 100% faithfully to God. When he came in the flesh, despite his temptations, he was faithful to God’s will. He was faithful to the law. He was faithful to his conscience. He never acted selfishly but obeyed God and put the needs of others before His own. He did this perfectly. None of us have a testimony of faithfulness that can save us. And Jesus is the only one with a perfect testimony that can save a soul. The faithfulness of Jesus becomes ours when we trust His good works to save us when his works are applied to us. We repent of our sins, trust God and cry out to God to save us, and then God puts our sins on the cross and the works of Jesus in our hearts. He expunges the record of our past sins.

Jesus Is the Only One With A Perfect Testimony

Maybe we think we lived a pretty good and clean life and we think we are worthy of salvation. We don’t need Jesus to save us. We will do this by ourselves.

If we steal a car just one time and get caught, we get put in jail, and the term larceny goes on our permanent record. We are forever labeled as a thief and that stays with us. In the same way, all it takes to be pronounced guilty in God’s sight is one sin. And even one sin will get us banned from heaven. We are stained. We crossed a line and proved that we will do something to ruin heaven at some point in the future. We cannot be trusted to be perfect forever so if God lets us into heaven, at some point we will again cross the line and bring sin into heaven which will spread to others and contaminate everything. So, God cannot let any sin into heaven.

How many times do you think the average person sins in a lifetime and disobeys God? How about you? Let’s say we each lives a very excellent life and sin only 3 times per week. That’s pretty good. That’s clean living. But that adds up to over 156 sins and acts of disobedience to God over a year. Multiply that times 70 and we have sinned 10,920 times in our lives. We have that many strikes on our record. That is how many charges are against us in heaven. Why would God allow us to come to heaven in that state and bring our sin and wicked thoughts and temptations and spread it to others running heaven and the new creation?

All people are unfaithful to God. And we have selective memory and push the bad things out of our mind and pretend we are pretty good people. But we need another plan if we are going to go into a perfect sinless heaven and be allowed entrance and not contaminate the place. So, what is God’s plan?

God’s plan was to send Jesus Christ to earth to live a perfect life and rack up a perfect record of obedience. Zero sins and zero chance he will contaminate heaven. He has no sins, and he proved that he is worthy of heaven. But now, God takes the perfect record of Jesus Christ and offers his record to be transferred to us so that God reads the record of Jesus when he examines us.

Not only does the record of Jesus get transferred to our account. But the desire that Jesus has to do things God’s way is transferred to our hearts and minds. We have the record of Jesus and now we have the new desire to live up to the standard Jesus sets. It is not hard work or gutting it out. It is a new desire. It is the resurrected life of Jesus working its way into our hearts and minds and desires.

Christi’s righteousness works its way through your mind and conscience and into the works and deeds of the body. And it all begins with repentance of our sins and trusting the faithfulness of Jesus and his work on the cross to save us and cleanse us and give us new desires.

**Vs 10** (Paul’s Goal) **To** **know Him (Jesus) and experience the power of His resurrection. To share in his sufferings and be like Him in His death and attain resurrection from the dead**

**Vs 10 My Aim (Paul) / To know Him**

To know Jesus means that we are in Christ. He has saved us and cleansed us from all our sin and made a perfect dwelling place in our hearts. His Holy Spirit allows us to communicate with Jesus and have his mind at work in our conscience.

**To experience the power of His resurrection**

To experience the power of His resurrection means that Jesus defeated death in us. We no longer desire things that led to death. And we have the power of the resurrection in our hearts and minds. We live like people who have died to the old life and now live the life that overcomes death and hopelessness by the faith that Jesus gave us.

**To share in Christ’s suffering** (stand with Christ even in suffering)

We have found what is most precious in Jesus and will give up everything else to hold fast to him, even if we are rejected or mocked by the walking dead. Don’t be afraid to be mocked by zombies. People are walking around every day who are dead spiritually and can’t value what you value.

**Be like Him in His death (**holiness and obedience as we die to sin and our old lives)

This is dying to sin and dying to our old lives of self-worship. If God gives us the righteousness of Jesus, the proof is that we have died to our old lives of sin.

**To attain the resurrection** from the dead (highest human goal)

This is the reward. The resurrection has begun for those who trust Jesus and his work to save us and give us new life. And if we live resurrected lives now, it is a sign that we will be with Jesus when our bodies die. We will have eternal life through Jesus.

**SUMMARY / APPLICATION**

So let’s summarize what we have learned today. First, Jesus has a testimony of perfection, and we do not. And Jesus offers to transfer his record to our account. His perfect record is given to us and, his desire to live for God is transferred to those who place their faith in Him.

We learned that many people want to save themselves by their own effort. But the golden rule and ten commandments and loving your neighbor has never been done perfectly by anyone. It takes a perfect record to get into heaven. God will not allow sin, to contaminate heaven.

The only recourse is to trust Jesus and put our faith in Him to save us from the past and give us the resurrected life that leads to holiness. We are invited to begin living the resurrected life of Jesus now. We can ask Jesus to put his resurrected life inside of us so we can live faithfully to God and to know Jesus personally.

**TAKING IT HOME**

1. Are you trusting yourself instead of Jesus for salvation?
2. Do you live like you have been raised from the dead in Christ?
3. Do you want your record to stand when you are examined by God, or do you want the record of Jesus to be transferred to your account?
4. Who will you live for now, Jesus or yourself?