

Righteousness Through Faith in Christ

Philippians 3:8-11

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Like so many of this life, Paul had put all his eggs in the same basket and it had turned out to be the wrong one.

We are such a broken people. I am not talking about just us, but everyone. Even the so called good people, are broken. We are like that fine watch that just can't seem to keep time like it should but at least it is right twice a day.

Our problem is not in being broken. Our problem is when we think that we are fine and we are not. If we think we are fine, we offend God. For His purpose is to redeem us but we often think of our selves and doing alright.

Some people are broken and they know they are broken and they are not afraid to admit they are broken. That's me, I am broken. When I consider Jesus in His holy righteousness, I feel dirty and undone.

Ezek 16:4-6; 4 As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. 5 No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. 6 "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' NKJV

God help us to never forget where we come from. God help us to remember that He is righteous and we are not. And if we ever expect to see God, it will be with us clothed in the righteousness of our Savior Jesus Christ.

And what that tells me is that there is no one in our community that is too lost, or sinful, for God.

No one is beyond His reach. Paul referred to himself as the chief of sinners, but yet God had mercy on him and snatched him from the gates of hell.

Paul had no fancy idea of who he was, he had been a blasphemer, in all his religiousness. He was a murderer, having persecuted the churches of God.

Do you know any blasphemers? Do you know any adulterers? Do you know any thieves? Do you know any liars? What about hell-raisers? Do you know any drunkards?

Because if salvation is by grace, and it is, then they need to be here. Because God can change any of them. Christianity is from broken people. He that is whole does not need a physician.

- I. In Christ is where it is at.
 - A. and be found in Him
 - 1. Romans 8:1 there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. NKJV
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. NKJV
 - 3. John 15:4-6 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. NKJV
- II. Not on our own
 - A. not having my own righteousness, which is from the law,
 - B. Paul's was from the law but other have other means.
 - C. Religious experience.
 - D. Or maybe just in our own mind.
- III. Faith in Christ
 - A. but that which is through faith in Christ,
 - 1. Rom 4:16 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, KJV
 - B. Therefore it is available to all, for anyone can believe.
 - C. That is our hope.
 - 1. For our friends.
 - 2. For our relatives.
 - 3. For the superficially religious.
- IV. That is where our righteousness comes from.
 - A. the righteousness which is from God by faith;
 - 1. Rom 9:30-32 30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32

Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; KJV