

# BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

## Realizing the Surpassing Value of Knowing Jesus Christ Our Lord

### *A Righteousness Not My Own*

Philippians 3: 9

**Introduction:** In Paul's testimony of his great desire to know Jesus Christ, he expresses a parallel longing to be like Christ in his daily walk, to have a practical kind of godliness that reflects the character and behavior of Jesus Christ. We cannot separate our relationship with God from godly behavior (holiness). There are several terms that express this concept: godliness, Christ-like behavior, holiness, etc., but all of them ultimately bring us to the term *righteousness* which is an objective standard expressed in many ways throughout the Bible and codified in the Ten Commandments.

#### Sermon Outline

#### I. Two Different Uses of the Term Righteousness as Applied to Christians

A. At the moment of salvation, as a result of being justified by faith, we receive the absolute, complete, perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ as a free gift in exchange for our sinfulness. Instantly we are perfect before a Holy God with no guilt or record of sin, and as a result we become "the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5: 21).

This perfect righteousness applied by faith is called \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Also, at the moment of salvation we begin a journey with Jesus Christ that transforms our behavior and our character. The Holy Spirit begins to mold and shape us into the image of Christ. This is a process which many call *progressive sanctification* and is the daily growth in Christ where we look less and less like our sinful selves and more and more like Jesus Christ. "He disciplines us for our good so that we may share His holiness" (Hebrews 12: 10).

This daily growth in righteousness is called \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Paul's Meaning in Philippians 3: 9

A. In this entire section of Philippians, beginning as far back as Chapter 2 where he encourages the Philippians believers to have the same attitude in themselves which existed in Christ Jesus, Paul is talking about the actual practice of Godly-behavior. This whole chapter (3) is devoted to his daily experience of coming to know Jesus Christ, and the righteousness to which he refers is the practical, daily, experiential holiness reflected in his behavior.

B. Paul tells us in that there are two kinds of personal, practical "righteousness:"

1. that which is derived from the Law
2. that which is derived from God

And he tells us the source of each of these two kinds of "righteousness:"

1. a righteousness of my own derived from the Law
2. that which is *through faith in Christ*, a righteousness which comes from God *on the basis of faith*

He is very clear about which one he wants in the process of knowing Jesus; it is one that comes by faith arising out of a relationship of intimacy and having God Himself as its root and source.

*More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

Philippians 3: 8-11  
(NASB)

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C. The following diagram may help to explain the difference in how these two work out:



Small Group Questions:

- 1.) What are some of the things we receive from God at the moment we believe in Jesus?
- 2.) What is the purpose of this journey we begin at the moment we believe? How would you describe your own journey?
- 3.) What is meant by “daily growth in righteousness?”
- 4.) The Apostle Paul exhorted the Philippians to exhibit a certain attitude. Who is the model by whom we should live and why?
- 5.) How would you describe the difference between the righteousness derived from the Law and the righteousness derived from faith?
- 6.) Share some of your own personal experiences as that may relate to the diagrams illustrated above.

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