

8-21-24 – Philippians – Week 7

3 wks. Labor in vain... what matters most. Not our efforts, what Jesus did.

Phil. 2:8-9 – NIV – “⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

I - My Righteousness vs. God's Righteousness

What is it? - Websters: characterized by uprightness or morality; virtuous; acting in an upright, moral way.

God's righteousness – He is perfectly just, holy, and fair in everything.

[Psalm 145:17](#) - "The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does."

[Deuteronomy 32:4](#) - "He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

- God will always do what is right; He's ALWAYS fair; just. **His character.**
- God will always do the right thing toward you. Me. Everyone.
 - It's so basic, yet profound. It's the **nature of God**: does what's right.
 - This is **important** to understand b/c it is what allows us to **feel completely safe** w/ Him. You can have **peace**.
- **Heb. 12:11** – “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a *harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*”
- B/c God always wants what is best for us. . . may include **Discipline**.
 - We're created for a purpose, to fulfill it ... we have to be prepared.
 - God's **preparation builds righteousness** in us . . . so we do the right thing. It comes from God . . . the result is we live in Peace.
 - [Isaiah 32:17](#) – “The work of righteousness will be peace.”
- Righteousness is God's gift to us.
 - [Romans 5:17](#)– “For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. *But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.*”
 - We don't earn it... don't work for it, try to be good enough.
 - We accept it, just like grace. Belief... receive it by faith.
- **We aren't righteous apart from God.** We're Righteous b/c of Jesus.

- **Rom. 5:9** – “we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ”
 - o That’s how God sees us... thru the **filter** of Jesus’ blood.
- Righteous behavior is not the same as righteousness.
 - We can act one way, with wrong motives.
 - o Behaviors don’t always align w/ the heart. Or God.
 - “I’m sitting down on the outside, standing up on inside.”
 - Paul thought he was righteous... **he was wrong.**
 - Self-righteousness is self-centered; prideful.

Righteousness comes from God. **Leads us to do right things. Act in LOVE**

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- When we go through rough times, it is our opportunity... invitation... to **know Jesus better**. He suffered all we have... physical, emotional.
- Jesus hurts w/ us & in our pain, we are able to draw closer to Him.
- Suffering is a call to intimacy with Jesus...
 - o And it’s only in suffering we experience **resurrection power**

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

II - We have a goal before us... we’re all in a spiritual journey.

You can’t move forward if you’re stuck.

One thing we all must do: **forget what is behind, press on.**

- o Forget who we used to be... press on.
- o Forget sin. Lies.
- o Forget who hurt u... Forget pain you caused...
- o Forget the mistakes. Misguided. Guilt.

Stop dwelling on the past; It will disrupt your future.

- o We are “**New Creations**” in Jesus. God sees us thru **J filter**.

Paul hasn’t fully “taken hold of it.” Ongoing battle. Thorn/flesh.

- o **Enemy will talk about the past; God will talk about your future.**

- Don’t be prisoner of your past: was **life lesson, not life sentence.**

- Keep your eye on the Heavenly Prize. It's so easy to get distracted.
 - God is never upset w/us getting back on track. Don't quit race.