

## 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 – “<sup>8</sup> What 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 <sup>9</sup> and 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”
  - 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.
  - 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**

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> 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...
  - And it’s only in suffering we experience **resurrection power**

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> 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.**

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

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

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

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

- **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.