

Series: Philippines 2024

Title: True Repentance and Faith

Text: Php 3: 4-9

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Philippians 3: 4: Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6: Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Do you count everything about yourself and all your former religious confidence as dung that you might be found in Christ alone? That is what true God-given repentance and faith does. True repentance is denying self. It is not simply denying some sins but denying our entire self and all our works as being nothing but dung. True faith desires to be found in Christ alone!

Philippians 3: 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him...

Paul speaks of two kinds of righteousness here. The first is no righteousness at all. Paul counted it but dung. He said, "*I want to be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law.*" The second is the only righteousness God will accept. Paul said I want to be found in that righteousness "*which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*"

PAUL'S FORMER CONFIDENCE

Before Christ converted Paul, his confidence was himself and what he had done by the works of the law. We find it in verses 4-6.

"*Circumcised the eighth day.*" Today many think baptism is the new testament equivalent of circumcision so they sprinkle infants. Circumcision is the regeneration of the heart by the Spirit of God. The sinner is as helpless as an eight day old child to perform regeneration. Circumcision is of the Spirit of God

"*Of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews.*" Paul must have been of the half tribe of Benjamin that stood with Judah while the other half and the other 10 tribes became Judah's enemy. King Saul came from the tribe of Benjamin. That is probably who Paul was named after, "Saul."

Many put confidence in who their family is, that is part of why they sprinkle infants. But God made his children by electing us by grace in eternity and predestinating us to the adoption by Christ. God's elect were children of God before we knew it. Christ redeemed us because we are sons. The Holy Spirit births us anew into his family because we are sons. Paul said while as yet we were dead in sins, under the law, we were sons of God.

Galatians 4: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6: AND BECAUSE YE ARE SONS, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Biological family is not the family of God. Christ said those that believe on him are his family. We are called OUT OF every tribe, kindred and tongue in the earth into God's ONE FAMILY!

"*as touching the law, a Pharisee.*" The Pharisee was a sect. It is what we would call a denomination. So were Sadducees and Nicolaitans. But the Pharisees were the strictest. They are what we would call

fundamentalist conservatives. Like denominations today, the Pharisee, Sadducee and Nicolaitans did not agree or like each other. Only one thing they agreed on was to reject Christ.

But righteousness is not in a denomination. God's people are one because *"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all"* (Eph 4: -6).

Colossians 3: 10 [by the Holy Spirit we] have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

Galatians 3:28...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

"Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness, which is in the law, blameless." These go together. Paul persecuted the church because of the enmity the law stirred up in his sinful nature. As Saul, he thought he was righteous by his law-keeping. Therefore he hated the church who declares Christ alone fulfilled the law for his people. The reason men persecute the church is because they think their works of the law make them differ. But the one-way Christ's church is made one is by Christ making us know he fulfilled the law for us and those he justified are equally righteous in Christ.

Ephesians 2: 14: For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; 15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

Christ came and preached peace to Paul and made him see himself as the sinner and all his works as sin.

Romans 7: 8: But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence.

Paul's concupiscence was putting confidence in all those things rather than Christ. Why did he do so?

Romans 7: 8...For without the law sin *was* dead. 9: For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

TRUE REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Philippians 3: 7: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him...

Paul did not say that he was saved under that former religion then later he came to the doctrines of grace. He said, "I count it all dung that I may be found in Christ." Paul did not say that the Pharisees were his brethren. Paul's prayer to God was that they might be saved. He said,

Romans 10: 1: Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2: For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4: For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Paul did not say of those who mixed law and grace in their preaching that they were just misguided. He said,

Galatians 1:9...If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Why do some folks who profess to believe salvation by the sovereign grace of God in Christ embrace will-worshippers as brethren? Usually they have family that are will-worshippers and they had rather offend God than them. Christ said,

Matthew 10:37: He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38: And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

It is a painful cross to God's saints to be rejected by family due to our believing and preaching Christ. But scripture says when a sinner is born from above then he will not be ashamed of Christ. Then he will count all his former confidence dung that he might be found in Christ alone!

CHRIST IS OUR ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS

Philippians 3: 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

The one true righteousness of God, which God has provided for his people, is God's Son, Christ Jesus the Lord. When Paul said his countrymen had not submitted unto the righteousness of God, Paul did not name a doctrine. He said,

Romans 10: 4: For CHRIST *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

The righteousness of God is Jesus Christ--Jehovah Tsidkenu--the LORD our Righteousness (Jer 23: 6; 33: 16). Paul said, "I want to be found in Christ alone, having his righteousness alone!" *"That which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."*

Christ is the Righteousness which is of God. GOD GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON—WHO TOOK FLESH--THE GODMAN--the ONE in whom God delights who brings God and his people together in peace in his righteousness alone.

THE LORD JESUS IS GOD'S CHRIST. He is God's choice. He is God's anointed sent to save his elect people from our sins.

Matthew 1:21: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

GOD'S LAMB IS CHRIST. Abraham said, "God will provide himself a Lamb." Christ is God. He is God providing himself. He is the Lamb God has provided. Christ laid down his life in the place of all those God gave Him so that God is just. Christ magnified his law and made it honorable. And by Christ's blood, God is the Justifier of those he gives faith.

CHRIST IS GOD'S HIGH PRIEST. God made Him a priest. He entered into God's holy presence by His own blood, having accomplished eternal redemption for his people.

The righteousness by which God's elect are made righteous is Christ Jesus himself. We are made righteous by the faith of Christ. Paul said he desired to be found in that [righteousness] *"which is through the faith of Christ."* He is the righteousness God imputes to his elect when God gives us faith to believe on Christ alone, *"the righteousness which is of God by faith."* Make sure you have a Bible translation that makes this distinction between "the faith of Christ" and "faith in Christ."

Galatians 2:16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST, even we have BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST, that we might be justified by THE FAITH OF CHRIST, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

IN CHRIST

Why does Paul say that he wanted to found in Christ? It is because Christ is everything God the Father requires. It is because everything God freely gives his people is IN CHRIST.

Colossians 1: 19: For it pleased the Father that IN HIM should all fulness dwell

Ephesians 1: 3: Before the foundation of the world God the Father "blessed his people with all spiritual blessings IN CHRIST, according as he chose us IN HIM"

2 Corinthians 5:21: He hath made him sin who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God IN HIM

Romans 3:24: [his people were] justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is IN CHRIST JESUS

1 John 3: 15...he was manifested to take away our sins; and IN HIM is no sin

1 Corinthians 1: 2...the church of God is sanctified IN CHRIST JESUS...

2 Corinthians 3: 14...[the veil which was upon our hearts is] done away IN CHRIST by the Spirit of our Lord

Galatians 3:26...[we are] children of God by faith IN CHRIST JESUS

Romans 8: 1: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are IN CHRIST JESUS..

Ephesians 2: 6: he raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places IN CHRIST JESUS

Philippians 2: 1 our consolation and comfort of love is IN CHRIST

Philippians 3:3 we are the circumcision which worship God in the spirit, rejoice IN CHRIST JESUS, and have no confidence in the flesh...14...the prize of the high calling of God is IN CHRIST JESUS

Ephesians 1: 10 in the fulness of time God shall gather together in one all things IN CHRIST...

This is why Paul says that he wanted to "be found IN HIM, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

For you that are yet trusting in you, may this be God's predestinated hour when he sends the Spirit of his Son into your heart crying, Abba, Father. If he does then you will count all things dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Your one desire will be to be found in Christ having his Righteousness alone!

For you who God has granted repentance and faith, we do as Paul,

Philippians 3: 13...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Our confidence and rejoicing is Christ alone.

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Amen!