

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

The Righteousness that Comes from God and is by Faith

Week of July 19, 2020 A.D

The greatest exchange in all of history occurred when Jesus died for you and me on the cross at Calvary. Christ took the punishment for our sins; and, Christ offered to us his righteousness as a replacement for our sinful nature.

Read Philippians 3:2-3

1. What is circumcision? How and why did the Jews practice circumcision? Why does Paul speak so harshly (again, read verse 2) about his fellow Jews who claim to believe in Christ and who state that circumcision is required of anyone who wants to please God? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Philippians 3:3-6

2. Paul uses verses 4-6 to describe the human attitudes and personal accomplishments of an individual who has “put confidence in the flesh” in an attempt to please God. How does “putting confidence in the flesh” differ from (a) “worshipping by the Spirit of God” and (b) experiencing “glory in Christ Jesus”? Please explain your answers.

Read Romans 2:25-29

3. The Old Testament law required all Jewish males to be circumcised to serve as an acknowledgment of their covenant relationship with God. What does Paul mean when he writes in verse 29, “circumcision is circumcision” (a) “of the heart” (b) “by the Spirit” and (c) “not by the written code”?

Read Romans 3:20

4. What does it mean for a person to “be declared righteous” in the sight of God? Why will no one “be declared righteous” in the sight of God “by observing the law”? Is “the law” good? Is the law “righteous”? Is it (a) good experience, and (b) an essential experience for every person to “become conscious of sin”? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Philippians 3:7-9

5. In verse 7, Paul states that his birth right and his achievements were “to my profit”. What personal human achievements and/or “birthright” do you consider to be to “your profit”? Why? If you do not have any “achievements” and/or “birthright”, please explain the reasons why you do not.
6. Is it possible to be a “Christian” without suffering “loss for the sake of Christ”? Please explain your answer.
7. Read verse 8. In your opinion, did Paul literally “lose all things” for the sake of Christ? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
8. What accomplishment, privilege, position of authority, source of influence, or possession do you value the most in your life? Please explain why.
9. Which do you value more: (a) that which you have identified to be your answer to question 8 above or (b) knowing Christ? Please state the evidence which you have to support your answer.
10. In your opinion, (a) does the “typical Christian” in your small group and/or your church family consider everything to be “rubbish” for the sake of knowing and following Christ? and (b) should they do so? Please explain your answers.
11. Read verse 9. Are you a righteous person? Please explain the reason for your answer.
12. Are you a righteous person? What does it mean to “have faith in Christ”? Do you “have faith in Christ”? Please explain how your “faith in Christ”: (a) came into existence; (b) has changed your life; (c) is noticeable to you and to other people; and (d) is evident in your: commitment to worship God, having fellowship with other Christians, spiritual growth as a disciple of Christ, service in your Church family, and sharing your testimony about Christ with non-believers?

Consider: Knowing Christ as your Savior and Lord is a life-changing experience which is never-ending, motivating, challenging, focused, disciplined, and passionate, “You think about that.” Amen.