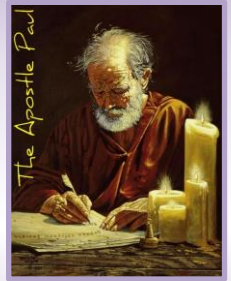


PHILIPPIANS

Joy In Christ



Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation ... [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]

PREVIEW

Paul, after pointing out his earthly credentials as a righteous man, explains that all of his accomplishments are worthless compared to the righteousness “which comes by God on the basis of faith.” Paul speaks of his great desire to one day be resurrected in Christ but also points out that, until that day, we all must work toward that goal. We are not to dwell on our past, whether glorious or infamous, but constantly press onward in service to our Lord.

JUSTIFICATION: (3:7-9)

Justification is the act of God whereby He declares to be righteous, that sinner who has received the imputed righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Its essence is grace (Romans 3:24), its source is God (Romans 3:26), its means is by grace through faith (Romans 3:28), its foundations is the blood of Christ (Romans 5:9), its authority is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11), its agent is the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:11), and its evidence is works (James 2:24).

PAUL ESTEEMED HIS GAINS AS LOSS (3:7).

His assets became liabilities. The phrase “I HAVE COUNTED” indicates that he made a conscious decision to repudiate his religious successes and racial inheritance and that he continued to view his part in an unfavorable light.

PAUL SUFFERED LOSS (3:8A).

At his conversion, Paul also “SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS.” It cost the young Pharisee to become a Christian. Paul’s conversion produced radical changes in all of his personal and social relationships.

Why did Paul give up so much? He did it because Christ had done something for him. To have everything without Christ is to have nothing, but to have Christ is to possess everything.

PAUL ESTEEMED HIS GAINS AS RUBBISH (3:8B).

After over 25 years of Christian experience, Paul still deprecated his self-righteous effort in the same way he did when he was born again. The graphic term “RUBBISH”, sometimes translated “DUNG” points to that which must be discarded as useless waste.

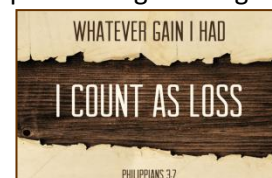
PAUL REJECTED HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (3:9A).

Paul had boasted about his achievements in his attempt to become righteous before God and humans. He once saw himself as blameless concerning legal righteousness (3:6). He knew that he had righteousness, but he now recognized that he had the wrong kind. He needed to rid himself of his self-righteousness. He finally perceived that no one is righteousness in oneself before God; thus no one can produce righteous acts that can bring salvation (Romans 3:10).

PAUL ACCEPTED CHRIST

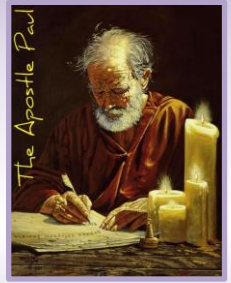
Paul repudiated his past legalistic efforts in light of the “KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD.” Salvation is not based on ignorance; it involves knowledge. Sinners must know something to be saved, and they also must know someone. They must know intellectually that Jesus Christ is both divine and human, that He died for the guilt and penalty of their sin, that He rose physically from the dead, that He is the only Savior of humankind and that humans cannot do anything to save themselves. They must then know Christ experientially by believing in Him, by entrusting themselves completely to the saving care of the Lord.

The apostle lost, that he might gain. He lost self and gained Christ. He lost sin and gained righteousness. He lost that which was human and gained that which was divine. He lost temporal things and gained eternal things.



PHILIPPIANS

Joy In Christ



Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation ... [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]

SACTIFICATION: (3:10-14)

Christ came that we might have life and that we might have it abundantly (John 10:10). When believing sinners have justification, they have life (3:7-9), but when they work at sanctification, they gain the abundant life (3:10-14). Getting saved is like getting married; it is just the beginning of a growing, knowing, and sharing relationship.

THE GOALS OF SANCTIFICATION (3:10-12)

A person must be in Christ in order to know Him. Justification must precede sanctification.

There is a difference between objective and personal knowledge of a person. The former deals with facts about man, whereas the latter stresses intimate acquaintance. Paul knew that he had salvation; now he wanted to know the Savior. The goal is a lifelong pursuit, because the divine person of the Son of God is inexhaustible.

Believers can grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ through a diligent study of the Scriptures that testify to Christ (John 5:39; 2 Peter 3:18). As they see Him and begin to know Him through the written Word, that truth will transform their personalities into conformity to Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The same "POWER" that raised Jesus Christ out of physical death also raised believing sinners out of spiritual death. This power presently operates within believers to give them daily victory over sin (Ephesians 1:18-2:7). Paul prayed that believers might perceive this truth (Ephesians 1:15-20).

Paul wanted to experience that fellowship of suffering. Believers cannot die for sins as Christ did, but they can suffer for the sake of righteousness as they permit Christ to live out His life through them. All believers who deny themselves, take up their crosses daily, and follow Christ will share in His sufferings (Matthew 16:24; 1 Peter 2:21). This unique fellowship will involve

suffering according to God's will (1 Peter 4:19) for doing good (1 Peter 3:14), for the name of Christ (1 Peter 4:14), and for being a Christian (1 Peter 4:16).

PAUL HAD NOT RECEIVED EVERYTHING.

He admitted that he had not yet obtained God's complete work in his life. He had not yet received everything God had in store for him.

PAUL HAD NOT BECOME EVERYTHING.

He admitted that he was not yet "PERFECTED". He knew that he was not in a perfected state with no room for personal, spiritual development.

PAUL HAD NOT DONE EVERYTHING.

He had ambition to improve. The phrase "I PRESS ON" indicates hard pursuit, such as a hunter following his prey. Paul wanted to lay hold of and pull down that purpose for which he had been saved. He wanted to do everything God had planned for him to accomplish.

AMBITIONS IN THE ATTITUDES (3:13-14)

Paul knew that he had not yet achieved the totality of the divine purpose for his life – "I DO NOT COUNT MYSELF TO HAVE APPREHENDED."

Paul daily was "FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND." No person can erase from the memory what has transpired before, but he or she can keep the past from controlling the present and the future.

Paul was "REACHING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD." The verb "REACHING" denotes an athlete who runs without swerving off course and who strains his entire body to cross the finish line (Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 9:26).

With all of his holy ambition, the apostle wanted to do "ONE THING" (3:13). He earnestly desired to "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." The verb "PRESS" describes vigorous, concentrated pursuit. Paul was a man with a goal. He knew who he was and where he was going.