

Read Philippians 3: 1-12

So often our best eludes us. How many of us feel like this in how we relate to God? Few of us can say with Paul... 'as for legalistic righteousness, faultless' but he found no comfort in his DIY righteousness.

Satisfied to be found in him: Jesus is a dwelling so attractive that Paul cannot bear to be away from home. He wants nothing except to be found in him (v9). Paul's desire to be 'found in Christ' means he wants whoever looks at him to see him as a man in Christ. Whatever he goes through in life he want to face them as a man in Christ. Jesus is his permanent address.

Satisfied to be blessed by him

Righteousness he abandons...

Paul has no wish for a righteousness based on the law. This is a DIY righteousness arisen through self effort or personal good works. Nothing more than a certificate of good behaviour - such righteousness does not give security. It does not make us confident that God will judge us favourably... 1) Even if we did have a perfect record we've still got to maintain it until the day of judgement. One slip up and the law pronounces an adverse verdict and makes our righteousness evaporate into nothing. 2) Such righteousness is self awarded. We have weighed our own merits, examined our own right to verdict. We have been both defendant and judge. We could never be certain that our verdict is one God would agree with; or that our own prejudice and partial self knowledge was as penetrating as God's holy scrutiny.

The righteousness which he desires...

A certificate of righteousness that God awards. For if God pronounces us right with him then we are indeed secure forever. Its origin is 'from God'. Proceeds out from God. It is his award. There can be no salvation unless God is satisfied. ..here is a salvation available to us with which God is satisfied. It is righteousness which 'comes from God' ... therefore it is certain from the start.

It is offered on condition of faith 'the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith'. Here is the simplicity and freedom of this salvation. Gone is the physical exertion of law keeping, gone is the anxiety of maybe not having done quite enough. Faith means we abandon works and efforts as the means of saving ourselves... Faith is only valuable when placed in a trustworthy object. Of supreme value- this is the righteousness which is our through faith **in Christ**.

Satisfied to satisfy him: Once Paul thought he had arrived = faultless. But hear his estimate now... *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect.* Sinless perfection is not even the experience of the great apostle Paul. He sees himself with new eyes and a new spiritual understanding. Knowing that he has not yet arrived he now sees something else... he is personally responsible to press on. The same Paul reminds us that we cannot by our own efforts obtain righteousness is now determined to make every effort to live the righteous life. He says Press On!

Q1: Do you feel like other Christians are better than you?

Q2: What does 'Jesus being your permanent address' look like on a day to day basis?

Q3: How easily do you fall into DIY righteousness?

Q4: When did you first understand that God sees you as righteous for what Jesus did? How did you feel?

Q5: When Paul say's Press On; what comes to mind for you- what are you stirred to Press On with in your life?