



Philippians 3:1-11 – Righteousness Through Christ Alone.

BILLY DUMPHRY | Week of December 2nd, 2018

SERMON OVERVIEW // Continuing on from both the necessity and practice of the humility believers find in Christ – Paul moves to talking about a **righteousness** that is only found in Christ.

SERMON TEXT // Philippians 3:1-11 English Standard Version

Five actions are seen for recognizing our righteousness is through faith in Christ alone:

1. Rejoice in the Lord. (v.1)

Paul has made it clear that we should rejoice but now points to the need to rejoice **in** the Lord. no matter what the change in your circumstances, if you are in Christ, you have an unchanging relationship with the sovereign God of the universe and he will remain with you and carry you all the way to the finish line.

2. Reject false teachers. (vv.2-3)

Now that they are in the right mindset Paul warns them about false teachers who will try to steal their joy and keep them from rejoicing. These false teachers would have them find their righteousness in something other than faith in Christ or in addition to faith in Christ. There is nothing in us or that is on our spiritual resume that produces righteousness.

3. Renounce your pedigree and privilege. (vv.4-8)

If anyone had reason to put confidence in his flesh and his accomplishments, it was Paul. He was prepared to renounce his pedigree and privilege for the sake of knowing and following Jesus.

4. Repent of spiritual pride and self-righteousness. (v.9)

There was a self-righteous pride that Paul had in these credentials and accomplishments before he became a Christian, but he recognized that they were worth nothing in God's economy after Jesus saved him. **Jesus + Nothing = Everything**. Puritan theologian and pastor Jonathan Edwards put it this way, "You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary". We must repent.

5. Rejoice in the resurrection. (vv.10-11)

This is the whole goal of our Christian faith and life – to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Without the resurrection, everything we are doing here is in vain. If the resurrection didn't happen – we have nothing.

Recognize that our righteousness is only through faith in Christ alone.



Discussion Questions – Righteousness Through Christ Alone.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or reading this particular passage in Philippians?

Question 2

Paul exhorts the church to rejoice both in the Lord as well as in the resurrection. **What, uniquely, does it mean to rejoice in the Lord, and not just before the Lord? Do you personally find it easier to rejoice in or before the Lord? Explain your answer with the group.**

Would you say rejoicing in the resurrection of Christ should change your day to day life? If so, how should it change? If not, what makes you say that? Briefly share your thoughts with the group.

Question 3

In speaking about pedigree and privilege – what areas of your life have you found 'easy' to renounce in order to know and follow Christ? Why do you suppose those were 'easy'? (being born with a *sinful nature* – none of this seems 'easy' but maybe more accessible at times)

What areas of your life have you found 'difficult' or currently impossible to renounce in order to know and follow Christ? Why do you suppose those are 'difficult'? What is the first step you need to take in letting that God in order to pursue Christ with a stronger urgency?

Question 4

Paul points to the need for repentance in the areas of spiritual pride and self-righteousness. Often times we can live our life under the equation of **Jesus + Something = God's Acceptance**.

What are the most common things you personally try and "add" to Jesus for acceptance? Why do you think we fall into this thinking so easily? As a believer, community group, and church, how do we live in such a way that Jesus + Nothing = Everything? Be sensitive in sharing particular details of your story with the group – this is a safe place but be selective in mixed company. Spend time praying that God would remove these additional things we bring to the table that is already fill of Christ.