

Stand Firm, Dear Friends*Christ-centered Passion*

Philippians 3:10-16

A.W. Tozer, *The Root of Righteousness*: A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is stronger when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passes knowledge.

REVIEW: 3:7-9 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

Salvation Past – **3:7-9** Knowing Christ - Gaining Christ - Being found in Christ

What we gain in Christ in *salvation past* is far more than the righteousness *imputed* to us in **justification**. God also *imparts* his righteousness in us in **regeneration**. God creates in us a new heart fashioned after his own righteous heart. He writes his will on our new heart and permanently indwells our bodies with his Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, God enlightens, empowers, and equips us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves—basically, to live, love, and lead like Jesus.

Salvation present – our **sanctification**. Unlike justification and regeneration, our sanctification is not a gift and it's not automatic. In sanctification, we partner with God in developing our *personal* righteousness.

God's will in our salvation is NOT merely that we stand legally righteous before him in Christ; he wants us to actually become righteous ourselves. Sanctification is not optional for God's people.

3:10-16 ...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. **16** Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Salvation Present - **3:10-16**

v. 10 ...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection.

Salvation past – **Ephesians 1:19-2:6** – positionally raises up and seated in the heavenly realms with the same power God used with Jesus

Salvation present - We can begin to appropriate that power in our personal experience.

Power over death – **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**

Power over Satan – **Luke 10:19; Colossians 1:13-14**

Power over sin – **Romans 6:1-14**

v. 10that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

We share in Christ's suffering and become like him in his death when we suffer abuse and persecution as his follower.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

We share in Christ's suffering and become like him in his death when we endure temptation and not give in

Colossians 3:5-17 - put to death what is earthly in you...put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator

Matthew 16:24-25 If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

v. 11 ...that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Everyone, believer and unbeliever alike, will be physically resurrected and given bodies that will last forever.
Daniel 12; John 5; Acts 24; Revelation 20

2 Corinthians 5:10 We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. **Hebrews 11:35** There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. (NIV)

Right now counts forever! **Romans 8:17-18** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, IF indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **2 Timothy 2:11-12** Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him.

Jim Elliot - He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.

v. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Hebrews 10:14 By one sacrifice, Jesus made perfect forever, those who are being made holy.

The more you mature the more you realize how much further you have to go to become like Christ.

vv. 13-14 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others, I myself should be disqualified.

Hebrews 12:1-2 ...let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings to closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfector of our faith...

"I press" = "I persecute"

Colossians 1:29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

vv. 15-16 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

BECOME WHO YOU ALREADY ARE!