



# Self-righteousness

May 28, 2018

**PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9 NKJV – (8)** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **(9)** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

My main focus today is verse **(9)**. Sincere Christians rejoice in Christ Jesus. The Prophet Isaiah calls the false prophets dumb dogs, **Isaiah 56:10**; to which the Apostle Paul seems to refer. Dogs, for their malice against faithful professors of the gospel of Christ, barking at them and biting them. They urged human works in opposition to the faith of Christ; but Paul calls them evil-workers. He calls them the shortness; as they rent the church of Christ, and cut it to pieces. The work of religion is to no purpose, unless the heart is in it, and we must worship God in the strength and grace of the Divine Spirit. We must worship Him in **"Spirit and Truth!"** We rejoice in Christ Jesus, but not in mere outward enjoyments and performances.

Not having mine own righteousness - That is, not relying on that for salvation. This was now the great aim of Paul, that it might be found at last that he was not trusting to his own merits, but to those of the Lord Jesus. Let us keep this in mind.....

Righteousness which is of God by faith - Which proceeds from God, or of which he is the great source and fountain. This may include the following things:

- (1)** God is the author of pardon - and this is a part of the righteousness which the man who is justified has.
- (2)** God purposes to treat the justified sinner as if he had not sinned - and thus his righteousness is of God.
- (3)** God is the source of all the grace that will be imparted to the soul, making it really holy. In this way, all the righteousness which the Christian has is "of God."

**SCRIPTURE READING:** MATTHEW 23

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Six times in the scripture reading above does Jesus condemn the scribes and Pharisees for rigidly adhering to their legalistic traditions in order to make themselves look better to others. Are you doing this?