



INTRODUCTION

It's amazing that there are Christians who actually believe they possess a righteousness of their own. The righteousness that they trust in is a physical flesh appealing kind which would never garner acceptance from the Lord let alone get anyone into heaven. What this form of righteousness does is provide a way to impress others and give the perpetrators the attention they so desperately desire. These modern-day Pharisees use their outward signs of righteousness as a permit to point out the weaknesses of their brothers and sisters in Christ. However, the Bible says in **Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV)**

⁶ But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousness *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

No matter how good we think we are and no matter how well we act in front of others remember the words recorded in **Romans 3:10 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ **As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;**

Let's not get caught up in what we do and are doing for Christ, rather let us get caught up in what Christ has already done!

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Philippians 3:3-11 (NKJV)

³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

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;

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

This verse is power packed! For this reason, we have to dissect it separately from the verses that follow.



Paul is telling the Philippian church and us that we Christians are the circumcision. We have been spiritually cut away from the sinning life (purposefully, willingly, continually and ignorantly sin). But instead of being discarded, we have been adopted into the body of Christ.

Colossians 2:11-14 (NKJV)

- ¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,
¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Then Paul goes on to instruct us on how we are to worship God and that is in the Spirit. If we go to **John 4:23-24** we will find these words of Jesus written:

- ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

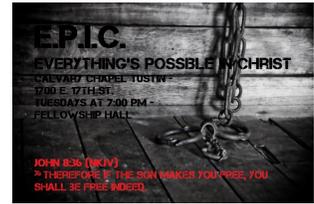
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⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Our right standing with God isn't dependent upon our human blood line (Somebody say Amen!). Right standing with God isn't dependent upon denomination in which we were raised. Our right standing with God isn't dependent upon the number of days a week we attend church services or how many times we forgive our neighbor or attack the Mormon Church in the name of Jesus! Well!

There are many requirements certain Christian groups will put upon unknowing believers and will continually attempt to show that these requirements are not only doable but are essential to prove one is in right standing with God. However, the most important identification of these requirements is; they are not of God. We should put no more confidence or trust in them than Paul had in the written requirements of the law.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 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; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Paul considers all of the things he once held dear as loss for Christ. If he placed all the things he did his entire life on a scale opposite the knowledge of Christ (the possession of the priceless privilege the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage of knowing Christ (KJV AMP)) it would far out-weigh anything he did or could have done.

Having this strong desire to get to know Christ more moves Paul to the realization that he never possessed a right standing in God in of himself. It is now and has always been from God! In his and our case, righteousness comes through the person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

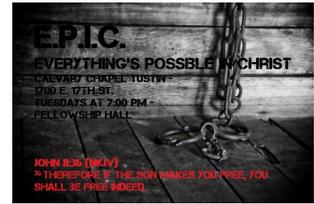
Paul's motives for his relationship are for all the right reasons. Paul doesn't need or want the approval or applause of men. His gain is far more precious and is eternal.

Thought for Discussion: Since there is none righteous, no not one according to Rom. 3:10. How can John write in **1 John 3:7 (NKJV)**

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

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It is not his *doing* that makes him *righteous*, but his *being righteous* is justified by the righteousness of God in Christ, which makes him to do *righteousness*:

Romans 10:3-11 (NKJV)

³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "*The man who does those things shall live by them.*"

⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "*Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'*" (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*)

⁷ or, "*Who will descend into the abyss?'*" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸ But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*"