

Message Two

**Being Found in Christ,
Having the Righteousness of God through the Faith of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Phil. 3:3, 7-9; 1:20

I. Paul's earnest desire was to be found in Christ—Phil. 3:9:

- A. At his conversion, Paul became “a man in Christ”—2 Cor. 12:2.
- B. Deep within Paul was the aspiration to be found in Christ; Paul aspired to have his whole being immersed in and saturated with Christ so that all who observed him would find him fully in Christ—Phil. 3:9.
- C. To be found in Christ means that Christ is our unique expression; only when we are found in Christ will Christ be expressed and magnified—3:9; 1:20.
- D. Paul wanted to be found in Christ in the condition of the righteousness of God, taking Christ as his subjective, lived-out righteousness—3:9.

II. The necessary condition of being found in Christ is not having our own righteousness but the righteousness of God through the faith of Christ—v. 9:

- A. Paul did not want to have his own righteousness but to have the righteousness which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith—v. 9.
- B. Not having his own righteousness but having the righteousness which is out of God was the condition for Paul to be found in Christ—v. 9; cf. Job 1:1, 8; 2:3; 42:5:
 - 1. Paul wanted to live not in his own righteousness but in the righteousness of God and to be found in such a transcendent condition, expressing God by living Christ—Phil. 3:9; 1:20.
 - 2. Paul's desire was to be observed as a person living in Christ and having Christ as his righteousness.
- C. There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers:
 - 1. The first aspect—to be the believers' righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ—Rom. 3:24-26; Acts 13:39; Gal. 3:24b, 27.
 - 2. The second aspect—to be the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively—Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24a; James 2:24; Matt. 5:20; Rev. 19:8.
 - 3. These two aspects are typified by the garments in Luke 15:22 and Matthew 22:11-12.
- D. The subjective righteousness of God in Philippians 3:9 is actually God Himself becoming our daily living, a living which is right with God and man:
 - 1. Paul did not want to live in his own righteousness, the righteousness which comes from man's own effort to keep the law—vv. 6, 9.
 - 2. Our own righteousness is the expression of ourselves, the living out of ourselves.

3. Paul desired to live in the righteousness of God and to be found in such a transcendent condition, expressing God by living Christ, not by keeping the law—cf. Matt. 5:20.
 4. The living which is right with both God and man must be God as our expression in our daily living, God Himself lived out through us.
 5. If we are to be found in Christ, we must be in such a condition that God is expressed through us and becomes our daily living.
- E. The righteousness which is out of God and based on faith is the righteousness that is God Himself lived out of us to be our righteousness through faith in Christ; such righteousness is the expression of God, who lives in us—Phil. 3:9:
1. Literally, *faith in Christ* in verse 9 is *faith of Christ*:
 - a. This faith is Christ Himself, infused into us through our appreciation of Him, who becomes our faith—the faith in Him—Gal. 2:16, 20; Heb. 12:2.
 - b. The faith of Christ brings us into an organic union with Him—Phil. 3:9; John 15:4-5.
 2. The righteousness of God is based on faith because it is on the basis, or condition, of faith; faith is the basis, the condition, for us to receive and possess the righteousness that is out of God, the highest righteousness, which is Christ—1 Cor. 1:30; Matt. 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:21.
 3. When we experientially have the supply of the Spirit through the word of life (Phil. 1:19; 2:15) issuing in the faith of Christ (3:9), we are infused with God Himself (Rom. 10:17); then the God who has been infused into us becomes our daily living, the living which Paul describes as the righteousness of God.
 4. We should aspire to be found in Christ under the condition of enjoying God's infusion so that we may live Him out through the supply of the Spirit, the word of life, and the righteousness of God through faith—Phil. 1:19-21a; 2:16.