

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, 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 is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.** I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
- Philippians 3:7-11

What kind of “gains” are we interested in and devoting ourselves to? I know people that seek money and power over all else - that is bankrupt...I know musicians that have sold-out and have long ago stopped playing and thinking “their own music” - that is bankrupt...I know people who spend all their time living for that “next connection” and leave a trail of broken lives behind them - that is bankrupt. The Apostle Paul states here that nothing is more important and more worth seeking than finding yourself in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Be Found In Him

Paul reminds us here, that any pursuit or hunt in life is worthless compared to the all “surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord” personally. He refers to this as better than anything else in life that we might have previously sought after. Paul states that what we were pursuing was only “garbage”, “filth” or “dung” in comparison to what Jesus offers. The verb here involves a longing that ends in a surprise. Paul is saying here something like, “I was longing to find God, and as I finally met Jesus in my earthly life I was utterly surprised to discover that this being found in Christ was none other than realizing that he has also given me the righteousness of God!” And this status that Christ has so freely given us functions and secures our freedom from sin and judgement. Wow! Surprise!

Not Having a Righteousness of My Own

We already know we can't be good enough – how do we know this? – because, we have tried and failed every time! Therefore, the only option is to let Jesus give us this righteousness.

Righteousness that Comes from God on THE basis of Faith

Our salvation comes to us by God's Grace alone (Ephesians 2:1-10).

“God, who is rich in Mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sin – for it is by grace you have been saved...”

Our Righteousness comes to us by a freely given security guarantee from Jesus, on the basis and guarantee of faith (Philippians 3:9).

“The righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith”

Spend some time thinking on these things, saints!