

From: Neil Uher 2@yahoo.com

Page 1 of 10

Date: February 17, 2013

Subject: That I May Know Him - Phil. 3:10

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him..."
Philippians 3:8-10

Saul, who was later called Paul, was a very religious man; in fact, in the beginning of this chapter he gives a list of things he did while zealous for the Lord. Religious duties aren't bad necessarily; it wasn't wrong for him to have been circumcised, or to be a direct descendent of the tribe of Benjamin, the son of Jacob and Rachel, ~~and~~^{whose} older brother was Joseph; there is nothing wrong that Saul ~~was~~^{beloved} could trace his lineage all the way back to Benjamin; Saul was also very holy, very dedicated to being faithful to God and keeping His commandments. These things aren't bad, right? of course not, but what happened, the trap Saul fell into was that he was trusting in

these things, and that made them bad. Now, as the Apostle Paul, he exposes his errors so as to save others from making the same mistakes he did. He wrote,

"Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more." Phil. 3:4

It's as though he said to all who are not trusting in Christ, but in their own religious actions, "You think you are a holy person? You think that your little religious duties are something for you to trust in? Get a load of this..." Then he goes on to write that he was,

"Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." Phil. 3:5-6

His confidence was not in God, but in himself, and ~~in his works~~ in his works (i.e. actions).

Notice that one of the things he had confidence in, was that he was so zealous that he was "persecuting the church." In Acts 8:3 we read,

"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

In the chapter before, Stephen was stoned to death and we read in 8:1 "And Saul was consenting unto his death." Saul imprisoned believers, he killed believers, he hated believers; but the whole time, Saul thought himself a "believer." Saul thought he was being faithful to God, when in fact, he was blind ~~to~~ to the truth.

There are many people today that are like Saul, "persecuting the church." They teach that the church age has ended, they teach that everybody in church was killed on May 21, 2011 and that they are all "spiritually dead" and are ~~dead~~ without any hope of salvation; they teach that telling people to trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins is a works gospel - though Christ and

His Apostles taught ^{people to do so} ~~the same thing~~ (John 3:16; Acts 13:38-41; 16:31; 20:21 etc.). Like Saul, these Bible teachers are blind to the faith, teachers like Harold Camping, Gunthar von Harringa^{Sr.}, Chris McCann, Robert Fitzpatrick, and any others who have departed from the faith. How do I know? How do I know that these teachers are false? Because I was one myself; and I thank God daily for removing the scales from my eyes to finally see Christ by faith, without the deeds of the law. I was "Kicking against the pricks," but God spared me, to God be the Glory! And I pray He grants repentance to those blinded as I was, including the Bible teachers I mentioned above. God knows my sincere love for them, and my fervent prayers for them.

Once God revealed Jesus to Paul through faith, he saw the worthlessness of those things which he had so much confidence in.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." Phil. 3:7.

The works he once cherished, were now a disgusting waste compared to the true riches in Christ.

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"
Phil. 3:8-9

Righteousness comes by two ways, that of our own obedience to the law of God, and that of Christ's obedience to the law of God. For Paul - rather Saul - he thought to obtain righteousness by his own obedience, but upon seeing the glory of Christ, he immediately forsook ~~his~~ any attempt of righteousness on his own - not that he gave up being obedient to the law of God, but that he immediately detached his faith ^{from} ~~at~~ his own works - and put his faith in the works of Another, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

O beloved do you understand what's going on here? Do you ~~for~~ understand that Paul finally saw the futility of his own works and casted

them aside, as he goes on to say,

"that I may know Him..." Phil. 3:10

He means that even though he was a very religious person, was very zealous for God, was very "faithful" to God, he never knew God. Saul was a man who was taught by Gamaliel, a doctor of the law and highly esteemed by people (cf. Acts 5:34), Saul was an expert in the law of God; if people had questions they went to the "men of renown" like the Pharisees, they went to men like Saul. You could not discuss doctrine with a man like Saul, he would club everyone with the law of God, he had an answer for everything, "This is what GOD says...!" But he never knew God, he never knew God... you want to think about that my friend?

Over and over in the Bible Christ warns of people He never knew, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." (Mat. 7:23) "But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." (Mat. 25:12) But in each case, the people

Christ told this to, were surprised! "Many will say to Me in that Day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in ~~the~~ Thy name done many wonderful works?" (Mat. 7:22)

How could this be? Because they never knew Christ by faith, but by their own works "... have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?" (Mat. 7:22)

This is what the Apostle Paul warns of, and he holds up his own failures as "exhibit A." ~~He~~ He finally shook off his trust from his own works, "that I may know Him," he says. Even though he was more zealous than his own Pharisee brethren, he finally conceded that his own righteousnesses were as "filthy rags" (cf. Isa. 64:6) and that he never knew the One, he thought he had so "faithfully" followed, "that I may know Him," by God's Holy Spirit, Saul had finally submitted himself to God's righteousness (Rom. 10:1-4).

My dear friend, you cannot be indifferent to

this message. You will either a) be edified and praise God for it; b) humble yourself before the glory of Christ and seek His righteousness by faith, that you may know Him too; or c) you will discard this message, comfort yourself with some lie, and remain blinded in unbelief thinking you know God, when in fact you don't.

"And we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." 1 John 5:20-21

Whether you are very "religious" and familiar with the Bible; or, whether you simply think you are a "pretty good" person and know nothing of the Bible, if you don't forsake your own righteousness, you will never know God. Don't you do so now? Won't you - as Paul - forsake your confidence in yourself, in what you have done, or in what you are doing, and cleave to the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, trusting wholly in Him? It's a long hard ~~to~~ road,

My friend, believe me, I've been there. You think you're saved one minute, and a reprobate the next. Your salvation becomes a roller-coaster of feelings, while you look to your own obedience or ~~disobedience~~ disobedience, it's exhausting, isn't it? You never have any real joy or comfort, you can put on a good show for others; but deep down when no one else is around, you're a broken mess. If you can receive it, if you're willing to receive it, listen to the words of our Lord.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you [that is, by faith], and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Let's take that old yoke off of you... there you go. Look at your neck, it's all bruised and bloody from serving such a ruthless task-master. Hold on, we're not done, the old yoke isn't removed so you can live to yourself; here, here you go. Take this yoke - by faith - trust in

Jesus for the forgiveness of all your sins and live for Him. "Ahhh...!" there you go, its pretty light, isn't it? Yes, Jesus loves you and died for you, He won't leave you or forsake you. There you go little one, lie in the green pasture. Oh look at you "walking and leaping, just frolicking in the joy of your Lord. Our captivity is over... "Go forth"! (Isa. 49:9).

Your loving servant for Jesus sake,

W. F. Whitt

May God have mercy on each ~~one~~ precious soul entangled in the law by a works gospel; and may He free His people still being held captive in "Mystery Babylon".