



# SESSION 5 | Episode 5 - RIGHTEOUS IN CHRIST

## Righteous in Christ (Philippians 2:12-30)

What's wrong with our righteousness?



Watch Film

### Righteous in Christ

- Many people, even Christians, think that God will accept them because of the good things they do, or the bad things they don't do.
- But Christianity says God accepts us because of what *Christ* has done.
- Religiously speaking, Paul has done everything right (Philippians 3:5-6)
- But now that he knows Jesus and his perfect righteousness, Paul realises that all of his "righteousness" is actually "garbage" (Philippians 3:8).
- We desperately need a righteousness that is not our own but comes from God. We can only get that by faith in God's son, Jesus Christ.
- That's because he- and he alone- lived the life we should have lived. And then he- and he alone- died the death we deserved to die.
- We must "watch out" (Philippians 3:2). If we think God will accept us because of the good things we've done, we treat the Creator as if he's in our debt.

**Circumcision/ circumcised (v 3,5)** | For Jewish people, this is a sign that a man is one of God's people. Some taught that circumcision is necessary for a Christian to be acceptable to God, but Paul knows only Christ is necessary.

**God... Spirit... Christ Jesus (v 3)** | Scriptures reveals God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Spirit.

**Tribe of Benjamin (v5)** | All Jews came from one of the twelve tribes. Benjamin was one of only two tribes that kept following God in the Old Testament

**Hebrew (v5)** | Another word for a Jewish person.

**Pharisees (v5)** | A group of Jews who followed religious rules and customs very strictly



Read Philippians 3:1-9



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## Discussion Questions

1. Paul lists his impressive religious qualifications in Philippians 3:5-6. What similar things do people today think will make them acceptable to God?

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2. What is Paul's view of those religious qualifications now? (See verses 7 and 8.)

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3. Paul no longer puts any confidence in who he is or what he has done. According to verse 8, who is he placing his confidence in now- and why?

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4. What does it mean for us as followers of Jesus to "consider everything a loss" (verse 8)? (See Luke 14:33.)

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5. What kind of righteousness has Paul now gained, according to verse 9?

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6. How can you and I get this righteousness? (See verse 9.)

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7. What has been most striking for you during this session?

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**Follow Up:** In Philippians 3:9, Paul speaks about “the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.” This week’s follow up activities focus on the theme of righteousness.

**Sunday:** Think over what you heard in church this week. What did you find most helpful?

**Day 1:** Philippians 3:1-9

If you can, memorize this key verse: “Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ.” (Philippians 3:9)

**Day 2:** Romans 3:20-24

In this passage, “declared righteous in God’s sight” (Verse 20) means “made right with God.” “The law” (verse 20) means God’s law, the Ten Commandments.

1. Look at verse 20. What does “the law” do?
2. If the law can’t make us righteous in God’s sight (verse 20), how can we be made righteous? (See verse 22.)
3. How is that made possible? (see verse 24)

God does not leave our sin unpunished: it was paid for by Jesus when he died in our place. Because of what happened at the cross, God forgives his people their sin, and gives them the righteousness of Jesus.

Spend some time reflecting on the wonder of this. Thank God that all who repent and believe in Jesus “are justified freely by his grace” (See verse 24)

**Day 3:** “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

In other words, Jesus took all our sin – even our very worst sins – on himself when he died. Jesus received the condemnation we deserve, so that we would never have to. Those who are “in him” now have his righteousness. Praise and thank God for his amazing love.

**Day 4:** Romans 5:6-10

1. Look at verses 6-8. What is so amazing about Christ’s death?
2. What does that prove about God’s attitude towards us? (See verse 8)
3. What has Jesus’ death achieved for us, according to verses 9 and 10?
4. How will God’s word impact us if we read and obey it (See verse 8)?

Reflect on your answer to the last question. If you are a follower of Jesus, all these things are true for you. Allow these truths to sink in and move you to worship. Pray, thanking God for all he has done for you.

**Day 5:** Re-read the passages you’ve read this week. Pick a verse you found particularly helpful and write it down

**Day 6:** Get ready for Discipleship Explored by reading Philippians 3:10-21.