



INTRODUCTION: TURN TO PHILIPPIANS 3

THIS SUNDAY IS RESURRECTION SUNDAY

- Three words to remember... PRAY, INVITE, BRING
- Pray for those you are going to bring to one of our resurrection services.
- Sunday we have our Easter Together Sunrise service at Vista Hermosa Sports Park at 6:30 am
- Then we are back here at 10:00 am for our Family Resurrection Service
- On Thursday April 5, we have our Passover Seder Dinner at 6 pm at our new location... if you've never been to a Passover Seder it's a must
- So Pray and invite, then bring them... go pick them up and make it an event... get together for lunch afterwards and talk about the services
- Perhaps God will use you to lead them to Christ!

Today we are looking at the Crucified King in Philippians 3

Philippians 3:7–14 (NKJV)

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.

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I *do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- The cross is central to the gospel
- Without the cross, there is no forgiveness of sins
- Without the cross, there is no righteousness from God by faith
- Without the cross there is no resurrection from the dead
- Without the cross, Paul's declaration of his love... the things that were gain to me I have counted loss for Christ... these words are meaningless



- Because if we could be righteous by our own efforts... there would be no need for the cross

But the truth is... the Bible says there is none righteous

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ As it is written: *“There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

- If there was anyone who had a shot at being righteous it was Paul
- Paul was so consumed with trying to do the right things, be the right person that he says in Philippians 3:6 that concerning the law, he was blameless
- But as good as he was, he wasn't good enough... in fact, his goodness actually got in the way of him receiving the grace of God so he says the things that were gain to me I counted loss
- They actually kept me from knowing Jesus
- Because it's only through Jesus that I can be made righteous, not from the law, but through faith in Christ
- I do that by receiving the righteousness which is from God by faith

What does the word righteousness mean?

- Righteousness is a legal term
- It refers to what is lawful or right
- Thus, the person who is righteous is the person who can fulfill the law completely and perfectly
- Man is considered righteous if he obeys God's law perfectly
- However, if you break the law willfully or accidentally you are no longer righteous, you are a lawbreaker
- The punishment for breaking the law is death according to Romans 6:23
- The problem with man is man by nature is born into sin... thus man is born a sinner and because man is a sinner, man by nature sins
- He can't help it... it's human nature
- When you're raising kids you don't have to teach them how to lie
- They do it naturally, you have to teach them to tell the truth
- Now... it's obvious that everyone's sin wasn't dealt with on the spot or else we would all be dead



- So how did man deal with sin? Answer... through sacrificial offerings
- Once a year, the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies and take blood from a bull and sprinkle it on the mercy seat that covered the Ark of the Covenant

I HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

- The bottom box part is the Ark of the Covenant
- The top is called the mercy seat... where the blood was sprinkled
- The two angels are cherubim
- God said that He would meet with the children of Israel between the 2 Cherubim... above the mercy seat
- Now inside the Ark of the Covenant were the symbols of God's judgment against man
- The 10 Commandments which symbolized man's rejection of God's law
- The bowl of manna which symbolized man's rejection of God's provision
- Aaron's rod which symbolized man's rejection of God's authority
- Now I want you to consider something... these 3 items remained in the Ark of the Covenant
- In other words, God's judgment against man was never removed... it remained in the Ark as a testimony against man
- Thus, God is dwelling between the Cherubim... God looks down and what does He see... a constant reminder of man's rebellion against God
- God would look down on man's rebellion and justice demands payment
- However, when the blood of bulls and goats were applied to the mercy seat, what did God see? The blood which represented death
- The Bible says without the shedding of blood there is no remission or forgiveness of sins
- Thus God would see the blood of the sacrificial offering and man's sin was forgiven
- This is where we get the word atonement... In the Hebrew it literally means that which covers God's eyes
- So God's eyes were covered from seeing man's rebellion and thus justice was satisfied and man's sin was forgiven...
- The Bible refers to this atonement or atoning for one's sins
- The only problem with this system was... it didn't work

Hebrews 10:3–4 (NKJV)



³ But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

- That is what's so significant about Jesus' death... Jesus' death on the cross accomplished what centuries of burnt offerings couldn't go

Hebrews 10:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins forever...

What is the sacrifice that Jesus offered?

Hebrews 9:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

- Jesus offered His own blood to satisfy the righteous requirement of the law
- The wages of sin is death, we needed a death and God Himself supplied the need by dying on the cross in our place

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- At the cross of Jesus Christ I exchange my sin for His righteousness
- I exchange my condemnation and judgment for His forgiveness

Both Paul and John say that Jesus is our propitiation for our sins

- The word propitiation is the same Greek word that is translated from Hebrew to Aramaic to Greek and in Hebrew it's the word Mercy Seat



- Literally... Jesus is our mercy seat
- So when God, who dwells between the Cherubim... looks down on man's rebellion what does He see? The blood of Jesus Christ
- His blood was shed once and for all and now my sins... past, present and future are atoned for by the blood of Jesus Christ
- God's eyes are covered and He sees my sin no more
- That's why Paul says in Philippians 3... not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but the righteousness of God which is through faith in Christ
- That's the righteousness I want and I whatever it costs me to get it... I count as things loss for the excellence of knowing Jesus
- There is nothing of greater value than knowing Him
- It's only through Jesus that my sins are forgiven, that my iniquity, my sin nature it changed... I'm a new creation... it's all because of Jesus
- JESUS PAID IN FULL MY PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

YOU HAVE IN YOUR CHAIRS AN ENVELOPE THAT SAYS PAID IN FULL

- We are going to move into a time of reflection and communion
- I want you to write down your sins on the piece of paper and put it in the envelope... no one is going to read these papers... they get thrown out
- As the Spirit leads, I invite you to take your envelope and nail it to the cross
- When we are all done, we'll pass out the elements and receive communion
- As you are nailing your sins to the cross, consider what Jesus did for you
- That it was your sins that nailed Him to the cross
- But it was His love that kept Him there
- He could have called down legions of angels to deliver Him
- But He chose to die for you, in your place so that you could be forgiven
- As you go back to your seat and see your envelope hanging on the cross, may you receive the forgiveness of sins
- May you know you're sins are forgiven and may you allow whatever guilt and condemnation you carry to simply lift off you and may you receive the joy of the Lord in it's place
- As we sing this next song, feel free to come up as the Spirit leads you.