



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

December 26, 2010

Joy to the World!

(A study in Philippians)

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Philippians 3:1-11 “JOY-N-Religion”

Jesus consistently attracted the irreligious while greatly offending the religious of His day. His severest warnings were not given to atheists but to very religious people. You can know a great deal about God and even about godliness (morality) without knowing God. Paul shows us in this text from his own life that there is a major difference between being religious (works righteousness) and having a relationship with God (faith righteousness).

Philippians 3:1-11

What is Righteousness?

It is what we desperately need!

It is a resume. (vv4-6)

It is a means of acceptance (significance/security).

It is fundamental to all of life.

What is Works Righteousness? (vv2-4, 9)

It is where we generally get our acceptance!

Foundation: self discovery (irreligious) or moral conformity (religious). (Luke 15:11-32)

Focus: My performance plus the acceptance of people I admire. (John 5:44; 2 Cor. 10:12)

Fruit: Pride (Superiority) or despair (Inferiority). (1 Cor. 3:18-23, 4:3, 7; Gal. 1:10)

What is Faith Righteousness?

It is where we can get ultimate acceptance!

Foundation: Work of the Holy Spirit. V3b (Rom. 2:28-29; Rom. 7:6, 8:15; Phil 2:12-13)

Focus: The person and work of Jesus Christ for me. vv1, 3c, 7-9 (Gal. 6:14; Rom. 3:21-31; 1 Cor. 1:18-31)

Fruit: Unspeakable glorious joy of knowing Him, becoming like Him, suffering for Him and one of these days being with Him for all eternity. Vv10-11 (1 Pet. 1:3-9; Jer. 9:23-24; Eph. 6:14)

We are all desperate for righteousness - a performance validating record that gives us acceptance, security, and significance. Works righteousness is performing to be your own god, but Faith Righteousness is performing to honor God because of His amazing acceptance, security and significance by grace He gives to us.



Growing

December 19, 2010

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- 1) Jesus consistently attracted the irreligious while greatly offending the religious of His day. Why do you think His severest warnings were not given to atheists but to very religious people? How is it that you can know a great deal about God and even about godliness (morality) without knowing God?

- 2) Read Phil. 3:1-11. What stands out to you from this text? What is righteousness and how is it like a resume? What was Paul's resume (vv4-7)? How is a resume a means to acceptance (security/significance)?

- 3) What is works righteousness? What are the two ways people typically miss God as illustrated in the Prodigal Sons story (Luke 15)? What is the focus of works righteousness? What did Jesus say was the reason the religious didn't accept him (John 5:44)?

- 4) How does works righteousness either produce pride or despair? How does Paul refute works righteousness (1 Cor. 3:18-23, 4:3, 7; Gal. 1:10)? What is faith righteousness and how does Paul compare his works righteousness with his faith righteous (vv8-9)?

- 5) What is the foundation, focus and fruit of faith righteousness? What would you say tends to be your validating performance record other than the person and work of Christ? Why is worship of Christ (vv10-11) to the key to making the switch from works to faith righteousness? Make this your