

Not Having Mine Own Righteousness

By: David A. Sargent

Philippians 3:9-16, “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, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.”

Simply put my own righteousness cannot save me, it cannot keep me saved and it does nothing for growing in the Lord. It is a hindrance in every way in the Christian life. Justification is not only for salvation but justification is also for sanctification. That means that all our righteousness is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:16, “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Romans 3:19-28, “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

So where is boasting then? It is excluded. By the law of FAITH without the deeds of the law. Some will say that this pertains only to salvation and not to Christian growth. And that I am teaching that you don't have to be personally righteous, etc. Yet, I have never taught that you do not as a Christian need good works to follow salvation. Actually I do teach that if you are yielding to the Spirit of God those works will follow. But it is not your personal righteousness in place of the Spirit of God working IN you and through you.

Galatians 3:1-7, “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”

So we see on the one hand our salvation in Galatians 3:26, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” And on the other hand our Christian growth: Colossians 2:6, “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:”

Salvation puts us IN Christ and the Christian Growth is our WALK in Him. Being IN the Spirit and our WALK in the Spirit are two different things. Walking with the Lord consists of yielding to the words of God and the Spirit of God bringing to remembrance those words. Our walk is to do good things and bringing glad tidings to a lost and dying world. It is not a self-righteous or personal righteousness that equips us to face the Judgment Seat of Christ but a yielding to the Lord in our lives and doing good. Good is opposed to bad however righteousness is opposed to unrighteousness. All unrighteousness is SIN.

1 John 5:17, “All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.” A Christian will not be counted as sinful or a sinner or unrighteous at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” Notice it did NOT say “...whether it be righteous or unrighteous.”

Isaiah 64:6, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

If ALL our righteousnesses (plural) are as filthy rags; and even the Righteousness of God (saved people) (Romans 3:22-23) 2 Corinthians 5:21, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” So our righteousness is of no account saved or lost.

Lost people can do good: Matthew 7:11, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” and Luke 11:13, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Those good things don’t count as good when a person is lost because God accounts a sinner with their sins. God accounts Saints as sons (good or bad) NOT sinners or their sins. All our sins were washed away in the Blood. Sins for the Saint are considered bad and is not reckoned as the sinners sins.

1 John 1:6-10, “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

Like the lost person our sin and unrighteousness resides in the flesh; but the lost person also has a sinful soul and a dead spirit when they come of age or reasoning of the law.

Romans 7:7-13, “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the

commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.”

This is why the lost must be born again. Their repentance is from trusting in their own righteousness to keep them out of hell fire and damnation; and to trusting in the Righteousness of God which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:3-4, “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

The saved person's spirit is born of God, and his soul is safe; ergo: saved. The flesh is still wicked and should be reckoned dead. This reckoning is done in the soul; and you the soul should be alive to the spirit in your that is born of God which you yield to.

Now for the Christian is there a TERROR at the Judgment Seat of Christ? Well, perhaps there is for some that cannot understand what that means. There are some things listed as a TERROR.

Lucifer as the covering cherub after his fall and becoming Satan before he is vanquished in the lake of fire: Ezekiel 28:19, “All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”

The powers that be like the police and armed services; governments and rulers: Romans 13:1-4, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

The lost (knowingly or not) have the wrath of God abiding on them: John 3:36, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” and 2 Corinthians 5:11, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

The terror of men: 1 Peter 3:13-17, “And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

The fact is there is no verse that says that the Judgment Seat of Christ is a terror. This idea creates a stumblingblock for the Christian because none of us are worthy; and none of us have personal righteousness that amounts to anything. If you think you have it; then you are a self-righteous egotistical hypocrite.

Romans 14:9-13, "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."

The descriptive statement about the Judgment Seat of Christ is reward or suffer loss.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

There is no garments given out at this judgment. You are not sewing a garment during the Church age. That would suggest that your righteousness has something to do with your salvation. The fact that Old Testament saints and Tribulation saints DO sew their garments partly with their own righteousness has no bearing on the church age Christian. Slapping Revelation 3:14-22 doctrinally on a Christian when it belongs on a Tribulation saint is removing the passage from its context. What if you are NOT an overcomer in the "Laodicean Church Age"? There is no such thing as the "Laodicean Church Age"! There is a TYPE of the local churches in their order. But you cannot apply them doctrinally to the local Church IN the church age. Else you CHOP up the body of Christ and lose your salvation for not being an overcomer.

If you MUST use Revelation 3:14-22 doctrinally on a Christian; then you MUST also apply Revelation 2:11, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." If you are NOT an overcomer then you will be hurt of the SECOND DEATH!

Then you have Revelation 3:3-5, "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

And notice how these local churches are IN the Tribulation: Revelation 16:13-16, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Why would anyone put this on the "Church Age" Christian when this is obviously a time when both faith and works are

needed for salvation because salvation as in the Old Testament was NOT just spiritual but also physical. Revelation 12:17, “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” And Revelation 14:12, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

The trouble is many will only key on a phrase and not look at the context of a passage to teach something and this causes much confusion, frustration and wrong application.

This other passage used for this is Revelation 19:7-9, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” This is from Isaiah 61:10, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” If you do not have a robe of righteousness then you are NOT saved! Your garments as such are the garments of salvation that the Old Testament Saints and Tribulation Saints MUST work and have faith for. The Old Testament saints faith in God and the Tribulation saints faith in Jesus. While the Church age our salvation is by faith without the deeds of the law. And as we have received the Lord Jesus so we walk: by FAITH alone. This does not mean we do not do good works! But we do that for rewards; not because we are terrorized into it. But because we owed a debt we could not pay; the Lord paid our debt that he did not owe and we thank Him for that by yielding to the Holy Spirit; and NOT to the flesh.

The passage used in conjunction with Revelation 3:17-18 and 19:7-8 to show that a Christian can show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ NAKED is in 2 Corinthians 5:1-4, “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.”

However the antithesis to being clothed upon with our house which is from heaven is NOT overcoming or attaining a personal self-righteousness. It is having our earthly house of this tabernacle dissolved; and the consequential “If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked” has no antithesis in the passage because there is no condition but being saved. Notice that this is a “rapture” passage and our new house is our new bodies that are clothed already. For the Church this is because ALL our righteousness IS the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice the similarity in the resurrection passages with 2 Corinthians 5:1-4:

1 Corinthians 15:51-54, “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

Showing up at the Judgment Seat of Christ naked would be a corruptible body which is repugnant to the Scriptures – It is also NOT a comfort like the Bible tells you the resurrection is to be.

For the complete discourse about what body we come up with at the resurrection see 1 Corinthians 15:35-57 where not one time are we described as being naked at the resurrection. Also there is none of the references to the Judgment Seat of Christ any mention of being naked at that judgment. If you are saved you have already experienced the “terror of the Lord” when you realized you were a sinner before a Holy Lord God Almighty and you knew you deserved hell fire and damnation. The terror of the Lord is the wrath of God on the lost soul. That is why you KNOW about it already. If this terror is at the Judgment Seat; how would you already know about it?

2 Corinthians 5:11, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.” This is why we persuade men; because they do not realize the danger they are in being lost.

Romans 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”

Ephesians 5:6, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”

Colossians 3:6, “For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:”

Knowing about that “wrath of God” becomes “the terror of the Lord” when a lost person knows his status with the Lord God Almighty: Hebrews 10:31, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Because Psalms 7:11, “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

The End