

Philippians 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

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 (καὶ εὕρεθῶ ἐν αὐτῷ, μὴ ἔχων ἐμὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ νόμου ἀλλὰ τὴν διὰ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, τὴν ἐκ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει, kai heurethō en autō, mē echōn emēn dikaiosynēn tēn ek nomou alla tēn dia pisteōs Christou, tēn ek theou dikaiosynēn epi tē pistei)—Heurethō en autō ("be found in Him") is eschatological: at judgment, be united with Christ. Two righteousness-types contrast: emēn dikaiosynēn tēn ek nomou ("my own righteousness from law")—self-generated, inadequate; versus tēn ek theou dikaiosynēn epi tē pistei ("righteousness from God based on faith")—imputed, sufficient. Dia pisteōs Christou could be subjective (Christ's faithfulness) or objective (faith in Christ); likely both. This is Reformation's heart: justification by faith alone, apart from works (Rom 3:21-28).

Historical Context

Paul's doctrine of imputed righteousness revolutionized soteriology. Against Judaism (self-righteousness through law-keeping) and paganism (merit through philosophy/virtue), Paul taught God-given righteousness received by faith. This became Reformation's sola fide. Philippians 3:9 is clearest NT statement of imputed righteousness—God's righteousness credited to believers through union with Christ by faith alone.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between 'my own righteousness' and 'righteousness from God by faith'?
2. How does union with Christ ('found in Him') relate to imputed righteousness?
3. Where might you be tempted toward self-righteousness rather than trusting Christ's righteousness alone?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εὗρεθῶ	ἐν	αὐτῷ	μὴ	ἔχων	ἐμὴν	δικαιοσύνην
And	be found	in	him	not	having	mine own	righteousness
G2532	G2147	G1722	G846	G3361	G2192	G1699	G1343
τῇ	ἐκ	νόμου	ἀλλὰ	τῇ	διὰ	πίστει	Χριστοῦ
that which	is of	the law	but	that which	is through	faith	of Christ
G3588	G1537	G3551	G235	G3588	G1223	G4102	G5547
τῇ	ἐκ	θεοῦ	δικαιοσύνην	ἐπὶ	τῇ	πίστει	
that which	is of	God	righteousness	by	that which	faith	
G3588	G1537	G2316	G1343	G1909	G3588	G4102	

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Righteousness): 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.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (Righteousness): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Galatians 2:16 (Faith): 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.

Isaiah 53:11 (Righteousness): He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Romans 1:17 (Faith): For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 8:1 (References Christ): There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Jeremiah 33:16 (Righteousness): In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

Titus 3:5 (Righteousness): Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Jeremiah 23:6 (Righteousness): In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (Righteousness): For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.