

# 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 εὑρεθῶ 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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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καὶ εὑρεθῶ 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

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**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.