

man in culture, religion, philosophy, ethics, or morality; he was absolutely a man in Christ who lived out God as his daily life.”

(*ibid.*, pp. 453-455)

Note: **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

Suggested Supplementary Reading

The Holy Word for Morning Revival—

Philippians: Week 4, Days 3-4

Crystallization-Study of the Epistle to the Philippians: Week 6, Days 1-6

The Life-study of Philippians, Messages 18, 20, 51

Our Experience in the Church Life

We Are Standing for Christ Himself

“When you come among some Christians, you may have the impression that they are very dogmatic. They are always determining the difference between wrong doctrine and right doctrine, giving others the impression that they are for a certain kind of teaching. This is all wrong. We must give people the impression that we are for nothing but Christ. When people come to our meetings, they must have the impression that we are standing for Christ Himself, not only in terminology but in reality. This should be our atmosphere and the impression which we give others.”

(*Witness Lee, Christ as the Content of the Church and the Church as the Expression of Christ*, p. 11)

Prayer Burdens

1. Pray for the GTA grade 6 children's weekly Saturday evening's meeting starting in February.
2. In the recent weeks many have heard the gospel and some have received the Lord, especially among the Chinese speaking and the young people. Please pray that the seed can take root in them through continuing contact, healthy visitation and shepherding.
3. Pray for the financial needs of the church.

Announcements:

Book Room

1. **Pre-order 3rd set Collected Works Witness Lee**
The 3rd set (4 volumes) of the Collected Works of Witness Lee (1965) is now available for pre-order at the prepaid price of \$70.00 per set.

The church in Toronto

Philippians Week 14

Feb 5 - Feb 17, 2007

Pursuing Christ to Gain Him (2) — Counting All Things Loss on Account of Christ, Part 1

Weekly Bible Reading:

Philippians 3:7-11

Hymns:

1205; 538; 295; 541

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 3:7

7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Counting as Loss All Items that Hinder Us from Participating in Christ

“Philippians 3:7 and 8 say, ‘But what things were gains to me, these I have counted loss on account of Christ. But surely I count also all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of Whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them to be refuse that I may gain Christ.’ When we come to these verses, we come to the heart of this book. Here we are initiated into the experience of Christ.

“In verse 7 Paul speaks of ‘what things were gains to me.’ These are the things mentioned in verses 5 and 6. The things that were gains to him Paul counted loss on account of Christ. All the different gains were counted as one loss by Paul because they all issued in one thing, that is, the loss of Christ, as indicated by ‘on account of Christ.’ All the things which were once gains to Paul hindered him and held him back from participating in Christ and enjoying Him. Hence, on account of Christ, all the gains were a loss to him.

“Whereas in verse 7 Paul refers specifically to religious things, in verse 8 he goes on to say, ‘I count also all things to be loss.’ Paul counted as loss on account of Christ not only the things of his former religion, but all other things as well.”

Religion, Philosophy, and Culture Occupy Us

“At the time the book of Philippians was written, most of the people in the Roman Empire were for religion, philosophy, or politics. In fact, the three main elements of Western culture, then as well as now, were Jewish religion, Greek philosophy, and Roman politics.

“For thousands of years, Satan, the enemy of God, has been using religion, philosophy, and culture to possess people and to keep them from experiencing Christ. Man was made for Christ. God created man in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), and the image of God is Christ (Col. 1:15). Man was made in the image of God for Christ. But Satan uses religion, philosophy, and culture to hook people and to keep

them from Christ. Although the more simple people may be hooked by material things, the more thoughtful ones are hooked by religion, philosophy, and culture. Actually it is the people who are occupied by these things who control the earth. The thoughtful, philosophical, and cultured ones are the most powerful ones. However, Satan has used religion, philosophy, and culture both to occupy these people and also to nail them on his wall.”

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 18, pp. 147-149)

Tuesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 3:7-8

- ? But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.
- 8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Our Experience has been Severely Limited and Blocked

“Those who love the Lord may easily abandon material things for His sake. But it is not easy for them to lay aside their particular thought and logic. You may love the Lord and seek Him for years without dropping one bit of your personal philosophy or logic.”

1. By Only Dropping the Worldly and Material Things

“We cannot experience Christ if we only drop the worldly, material things. If this is our understanding of ‘all things’ in 3:8, we are far from the experience of Christ revealed here. These verses are not shallow. According to the context, Paul is not speaking of superficial, outward things. He is not concerned mainly with material things. His concept is much deeper and is related to religious, philosophical, and cultural things, even to our domestic logic and national philosophy, things hidden deep within us. As we have indicated, it is very difficult for us to set aside these things in order to give ground to Christ and experience Him. During my lifetime I have met many Christians. But I do not know many who have been able to drop their national philosophy and domestic logic in favor of the experience of Christ.”

2. By Not Dropping All Our Substitutes for Christ

“This word about our national philosophy and domestic logic is extremely practical. It exposes a hidden substitute for Christ and a subtle enemy of the experience of Christ. By the Lord's mercy and grace, may we learn to say on account of Christ we count as loss our national philosophy and domestic logic, realizing that these things are a substitute for Christ and keep us from the deeper experience of Christ. Yes, we have experienced Christ certain degree, but our experience has been severely limited and blocked by our national philosophy domestic logic. Perhaps we can testify that we are free from the influence of religion. But who can say honestly that he is not hindered by his national philosophy domestic logic? We must confess that we are still hindered by this subtle substitute for Christ, that Satan is using our national philosophy and domestic logic to hook us, to occupy us, and to keep us from going further deeper in the experience of Christ. May the enemy's subtlety be exposed and may we truly count all things including our own philosophy and logic, on account Christ and the

Revelation 3:18

- 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments* that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

* — “In figure, garments signify conduct. White garments here signify conduct that can be approved by the Lord. Such conduct is the Lord Himself lived out of the church, and it is required by the degraded recovered church for the covering of her nakedness.” (NTRcV, Rev. 3:183)

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Faith of Christ

“How can the righteousness of God become our daily living? This can take place only through the faith of Christ. Just as the righteousness of God is God Himself, so the faith of Christ is Christ Himself. The faith of Christ is not simply something which belongs to Christ; it is actually Christ Himself. Only through the hearing of the Word can the faith of Christ become ours. Through the Word we are infused with the element of Christ. At the same time, we experience the function of the Spirit. The issue of this infusion and function is the faith which brings about an organic union between us and the Triune God. This faith, which is really Christ Himself, causes us to be organically united with God. In such an organic union we and God are one spirit. We live, and God lives in us. God lives, and we live in Him.”

The Spirit and the Word

“To have a proper understanding of 3:9 we should consider it according to the context of the whole book of Philippians. In 1:19 Paul speaks of the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ...”

“In 2:16 Paul goes on to speak of the word of life...”

“We need to consider Philippians 1 through 3 as a whole and put together the supply of the Spirit, the word of life, and the righteousness which is of God based on faith. When in our experience we have the Spirit, the word, and faith, we are infused with God Himself. Then the very God who has been infused into us becomes our daily living, the living which Paul describes as the righteousness of God.

Infused With God

“When we have the supply of the Spirit, the word of life, and the righteousness of God through faith, we are infused with God. This infused God will then be lived out of us as our daily life. This kind of daily life can be called the righteousness of God. This is not merely the gaining of Christ; it is the experience and enjoyment of Christ in a very practical way. This is to be found in Christ under the condition of enjoying God's infusion that we may live Him out through the supply of the Spirit, the word of life, and the righteousness of God through faith. I am fully persuaded and assured that this was Paul's concept when he composed the book of Philippians.

“Paul was very experienced in this matter. From the word of life and through the supply of the Spirit he obtained faith. This faith brought him God's infusion. Spontaneously Paul lived God out as his daily living and could be found in Christ, having the righteousness of God. It was Paul's expectation and also his aspiration that he would always be found in Christ in such a condition. Paul desired not only to gain Christ, but also to be found in Him in such a marvelous condition that people could recognize that he was a man living out God. As such a person, Paul was not a

the faith of Christ. The phrase 'in the righteousness of God' used in the title of this message points to the fact that this is the condition of being found in Christ in reality. Thus, the crucial aspect of the condition is the righteousness of God."

The Righteousness of God and Our Own Righteousness

"At this point I would like to present a new definition, or interpretation, of righteousness as found in 3:9. In this verse righteousness signifies a daily living which is right with God and man. Speaking of his past, Paul says in 3:6 that 'as to the righteousness which is in the law,' he had become blameless. Before he was transferred into Christ, he was a Pharisee blameless in the law. Paul thought that in his daily living he was right with man and God. Actually he was not right with God at all. The righteousness which signifies a living that is truly right with God and man must be a righteousness which is of God. The expression 'righteousness of God' does not simply mean that righteousness belongs to God; it also means that this righteousness is God Himself. For example, the terms life of God, light of God, and love of God do not mean merely that life, light, and love belong to God. The life of God is God Himself. The same is true of the light of God and the love of God. God Himself is light and love. In principle, this is also true of the righteousness of God. Just as the life of God and the light of God are God Himself, so the righteousness of God is God Himself. Therefore, the living which is right with both God and man must be God as our expression in our daily living, God Himself lived out through us.

"This becomes more clear when we consider what it means to speak of our own righteousness. Our own righteousness is the expression of ourselves, the expression of 'I.' My righteousness is just the living out of me. But the righteousness of God is God lived out from us. It is God becoming our daily living and expression. When we love others, our love is God expressed. Furthermore, our humility is not mere ethical humility; it is a divine humility, God Himself living out of us. If we are to be found in Christ, we must be in such a condition that God is expressed through us and becomes our daily living.

"When I was young, I thought that the righteousness in verse 9 referred to the righteousness God gives us through justification. However, for many years I sensed deep within that this was not the accurate meaning of righteousness here. One day I realized that the righteousness of God in 3:9 is actually God Himself becoming our daily living. If we would have this righteousness, we must have a living which is the expression of God. We must fulfill this condition in order to be found in Christ in reality."

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 51, pp. 452-453)

Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Romans 10:17

17 ...faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Revelation 19:7-8

7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

experience and enjoyment of Him!"

(ibid., pp. 150, 152-153)

Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 3:8-9a

8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...that I may gain Christ

9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law...

1 Corinthians 1:30a

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus...

2 Corinthians 5:17a

17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Desiring to Be Found in Christ

"In verse 9 we see that Paul's earnest desire was to be found in Christ. In the past Paul was fully in the Jewish religion under the law and was always found by others in the law. But at his conversion he was transferred from the law and his former religion into Christ, and he became 'a man in Christ' (2 Cor. 12:2). Now he expected to be found in Christ by all those who observed him — the Jews, the angels, and the demons. This indicates that he aspired to have his whole being immersed in Christ and saturated with Christ so that all who observed him could discover him in Christ. We also should aspire to be found by others in Christ. To be found in Christ actually means to be observed, seen, or discovered by others in Christ.

(ibid., Msg. 20, p. 163)

Not Having Our Own Righteousness which Is Out of the Law

"In Philippians 3 we find the contrast between two kinds of righteousness: the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of God. The righteousness of the law comes from our keeping of the law. For example, the law commands us to honor our parents. If we honor our parents, then this becomes our righteousness according to the law. The law also charges us not to steal. If we refrain from stealing, then we are righteous according to the law in the matter of stealing. The second kind of righteousness seen in Philippians 3 is the righteousness which is of God by faith. Thus, one kind of righteousness is the righteousness of the law, and the other kind of righteousness is the righteousness of God. The law is of dead letters, but God is living. Thus, there is one kind of righteousness which is of dead letters and another kind of righteousness which is of the living God."

Comparing the Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ Jesus and the Excellency of the Old Testament Law

"In order to know what the excellency of the knowledge of Christ is, we need to see that the main comparison in chapter three is between the law and Christ. Verse 5 says, 'According to the law, a Pharisee' (Gk.). Verse 6 says, 'According to zeal, persecuting the church; according to the righteousness which is in the law, blameless' (Gk.). In these two verses 'according to' is used three times: according to the law, according to zeal, and according to righteousness in the law. In verses 7 and 8 Paul uses the words 'on account of' three times: on account of Christ, on account of the

excellency of the knowledge of Christ, and on account of whom, referring to Christ. In verse 5 Paul says 'according to the law,' but in verse 7 he says 'on account of Christ.' Here we see the contrast between the law and Christ.

"A second comparison is that between zeal for the law and the knowledge of Christ. The third comparison is that between the righteousness of the law and the righteousness which is of God by faith. The focal point of these comparisons, however, is the comparison between the law and Christ. The knowledge in verse 8 is not the knowledge of the law, but the knowledge of Christ. This knowledge has its excellency because Christ is excellent.

"Do you still believe that the law is excellent? If you say no, I would ask you to compare the law of the Old Testament with the law of the Roman Empire. By this comparison the law of the Old Testament is excellent, for it excels Roman law. But if you compare the Old Testament law with Christ, it does not have any excellence."

(Witness Lee, The Experience of Christ, Chpt. 7, p. 60, 61)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 3:9

9 ...be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

1 Corinthians 1:30

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Galatians 3:26

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:14b

14 ...Peace to you all who are in Christ.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Righteousness of God Based On Faith

"In verse 9 Paul does not speak merely in a general way, but in a very definite way. He says that he did not want to have his own righteousness, but he wanted the righteousness which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God based on faith. 'Not having my own righteousness...but...the righteousness which is of God' is the condition in which Paul desired to be found in Christ. He wanted to live not in his own righteousness, but in the righteousness of God, and to be found in such a transcendent condition, expressing God by living Christ, not by keeping the law.

"Before Paul was saved, he had no idea that Christ could be his righteousness. The righteousness of the law is the righteousness which comes from man's own effort to keep the law, as mentioned in verse 6. Formerly, Paul lived in that righteousness which was according to the law. Others could invariably find him enveloped by the righteousness of the law. But now Paul's desire was to be observed as a person living in Christ and having Christ as his righteousness.

"The righteousness in which Paul wanted to be found was the righteousness 'which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God based on faith.' The expression 'the faith of Christ' implies our believing in Christ. Such faith issues from

our knowing and appreciating Christ. It is Christ Himself infused into us through our appreciation of Him, who becomes our faith in Him. Hence, it is also the faith of Christ that brings us into an organic union with Him.

"The righteousness which is of God based on faith is that righteousness which is God Himself lived out of us to be our righteousness through our faith in Christ. Such righteousness is the expression of God, who lives in us. It is based on faith because it is on the basis, or condition, of faith. Faith is the basis, the condition, for us to receive and possess the righteousness out from God, the highest righteousness, which is Christ (1 Cor. 1:30)."

We Need to Humble Ourselves before the Lord, and Ask Him to Have Mercy On Us

"If we would be found in Christ instead of in the thousands of years of tradition, we must be willing to forget our past, even our past Christian life, humble ourselves before the Lord, and ask Him to have mercy on us. In the Lord's recovery we have come to the place where we are facing a huge rock standing in our way. For many of us, there seems to be no way to go on. Furthermore, many of us have come to a stage where it seems difficult for even the Lord to get through in us. This is very much related to the fact that when others see us, it is very probable that they will find us in something other than Christ."

"If we would be found in Christ, we need to be watchful moment by moment, continually on the alert to live in Christ. If we are not alert, we shall immediately be distracted from Christ and live in something other than Christ. Our living may be very good, but in our experience we are not in Christ."

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 20, pp. 164-165, 167, 168)

Friday

Verses for Morning Revival

Romans 9:30b-33

30 ...the Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have laid hold of righteousness, but a righteousness which is out of faith;

31 But Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not attain to that law.

32 Why? Because they pursued it not out of faith, but as it were out of works. They stumbled at the stone of stumbling,

33 As it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling, a rock of offense, and he who believes on Him shall not be put to shame."

Philippians 1:21a

21 For to me, to live is Christ...

Acts 13:39

39 And from all the things from which you were not able to be justified by the law of Moses, **in this One everyone who believes is justified.**

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Requirement or Condition for Being Found in Christ.

"This condition is that we do not have our own righteousness which is of the law, but that we have the righteousness which is of God based on faith. It may seem to us at times that we are found in Christ. However, there will be no reality in these times unless we fulfill the condition of having the righteousness of God through the faith of Christ. To repeat, we need to be found in Christ in the righteousness of God through