

WHAT COUNTS WITH GOD

The Upside of Down - Series #9

A question asked on a radio broadcast leads to a changed life.

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If you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you
“Why should I let you into my heaven?”
What would you say?

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...though I myself have reason for confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Philippians 3:4-6

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Paul – a man with credentials.
• His heritage.

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Paul – a man with credentials.
• His heritage.
• His language.

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Paul – a man with credentials.

- His heritage.
- His language.
- His practice as a Pharisee.

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Paul – a man with credentials.

- His heritage.
- His language.
- His practice as a Pharisee.
- His persecution of the church.

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Paul was relying on his own works and his own meritorious record to get him into heaven.

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“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

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I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

Philippians 3:7-9

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JESUS

Mother Teresa

Billy Graham

Pastor

Saddam Hussein

“...found in Him [Christ], not having a righteousness of my own, that comes from [keeping the] law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

Philippians 3:9

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God's righteousness is not the same kind as human righteousness and no accumulation of human goodness, no matter how diligent, will take you to heaven.

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Human righteousness is not the currency of heaven. Human righteousness at its best is imperfect and God's requirement is perfection.

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For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

James 2:10

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...not having a righteousness of my own, that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Philippians 3:9

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Imputed righteousness:
God gives to me the very righteousness of Christ when I invite Him into my life. My claim to heaven is not what I have done, but what Christ has done, not my works or efforts at being good, but the goodness of God given me by grace through Jesus Christ.

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Faith is trusting someone to do something for you that you cannot do for yourself.

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There is no virtue in faith apart from its object, but when I, with my empty hands, reach out and embrace the Savior who reaches out to me, then I have all that matters.

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Christianity is not the self-movement of man towards God, but the self-movement of God towards man.

Faith receives what God in His grace offers. We reach out with empty hands of faith and receive Christ and the righteousness of God to qualify us for heaven.

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Lord Jesus, I've been trusting in myself to somehow make it to heaven. I hoped my record might be good enough, but now I understand my efforts will never open heaven to me. I want to transfer my trust from myself to You. I believe You died on the cross for me.

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I now reach my empty hands of faith to You to receive all that You are and all You have done. I receive the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I put my trust in Christ now. Amen.

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