

Introduction:

- Philippians 3:5-11
 - I want to speak about access to New Creation Realities.
 - First you have to know what is available. We have been looking all year long on Wednesday nights at what we have in Christ Jesus having become a new creation in Him. 1 For 5:17
 - Once you know what is available it is up to you to go after, access and apply to your life.
- Thank you Holy Spirit for your help!

I. Not By Works

- A. You cannot access heavenly blessings by working for them. They can't be bought or earned.
 - 1. This was the apostle Paul's message in almost all of his letters to the churches.
 - 2. He should know as he was very zealously trying to earn himself a new life.
 - 3. Almost everyone tries to earn their way into relationship with God. We are works oriented from birth.
 - a) We are trained to obey. This starts at home. The majority of that obedience is out of behavior modification and not a true heart change.
 - b) We are promoted or praised in life most often when we have earned it.
 - c) Because we feel so bad about who we are (sin consciousness) we work hard to get God approval or favor.
- B. Paul tried: Seven boasts
 - 1. circumcised on the 8th day
 - 2. citizen of Israel
 - 3. member of the tribe of Benjamin
 - 4. a real Hebrew
 - 5. a Pharisee
 - 6. zealous in persecuting the church
 - 7. faultless in keeping the law.
 - a) Paul trusted in these things to make him worthy before God. He trusted in what he was doing to make him worthy...not God.
 - b) Once they were valuable to him vs.7 now they are worthless.
 - c) No, they are garbage! No value at all!

II. The New Goal: One with Christ

- A. We can call this the become thoughts: Become one with Him. Become righteous in Him.
- B. Become one with him. Vss 8b-9, to gain Christ and become one with Him.
 - 1. To become one is from a Greek word that means to find or to discover. Often by way of surprise.

2. IE. Paul was surely surprised on the road to Damascus. And after that he set time aside to search the scriptures to find out who he was. He lost his identity when he met Jesus and suddenly discovered who he truly was. New creation, born again, righteous, justified, healed, prosperous, mind of Christ, new nature, blessed with every spiritual blessing, joint heir with Jesus, seated with Him in heavenly places. We have all this and more too!
 3. In light of this do not trust your own righteousness.
- C. Become righteous through faith in Christ.
1. Do not trust your own righteousness. Become the righteousness that is from God in Christ.

III. Righteousness Acquired By Faith!

- A. Abraham is our prime example. He was counted as righteous because of his faith. *"Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised! Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith." (Romans 4:9-11, NLT)*
1. Heb 11:8 by faith he went in order to receive the inheritance.
 2. Heb 11:17 by faith when tested received the promise...his son 'restore' back to life in a figurative sense.
- B. Paul says two things in Philippians
1. Through faith - through...the way of access to. Ie. Eph 2:8-9 Save by grace... through faith.
 2. Depends on/rests upon faith.
- C. The New creation realities are obtained through faith and when obtained are found to be resting upon faith.
1. *"So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."* (Romans 10:17, NLT)
 2. Faith grants access: *"And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.""* (Luke 17:19, NLT)

Conclusion:

- You are a new creation! Believe it!