



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Jesus Christ Can Make Us Right

February 3, 2019

Philippians 3:7-21

“And be found in Christ Jesus, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (Philippians 3:9).

Perhaps every Christian can identify with the Apostle Paul who wrote that the worth of knowing Christ Jesus as his Lord and Savior far surpassed everything he had ever achieved or previously possessed. The value of knowing Christ and being known by Christ far exceeded all of this world’s rewards that upon reflection Paul came to consider as rubbish. Paul came to understand the infinite value of knowing Christ after he considered his past life. He came to recognize that he had sinned grievously against God and others—even persecuting the Church and approving the death of Stephen. Paul considered the fact that no amends he might make in the future could totally compensate for the damage he had done to others and even himself. Paul longed to be made totally right again, and he recognized that striving to obey God’s laws in the future would not erase his past and make him right. Only if God made him right would Paul be able to treat God and others right as God intended. He needed a righteousness that only God could give him. He needed and wanted God to forgive his sins and cleanse him from the true moral guilt that weighed upon his spirit. He wanted to change the direction of his life and become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ as his Lord. Thankfully, Paul met Jesus, and Jesus met all his needs. Jesus made Paul right. Jesus gave Paul the righteousness that can only come through faith and depends on faith in Christ.

Thinking Further

1. What does this mean to you, “Christ Jesus has made me his own”?
2. What benefits does a follower of Jesus Christ enjoy because Jesus Christ has made them his own?
3. How difficult is it today for Christians or church members to say, “Do as I do and do as I say, because I imitate Jesus Christ”? Give a reason for your answer.
4. What can happen to a person who says they believe in God and Jesus, and who wear a cross around their neck on a chain, but who set their minds on earthly things?
5. What do you need to do to live each day as a person who knows that their citizenship is in heaven?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083-1052 and lgp@theiblf.com.