

5. Explain how when God looks at Christians, he sees Jesus, based on Acts 9:4-5.

6. Read Luke 18:9-14 and Philippians 3:4-9. Explain how this Pharisee's perspective dovetails with Paul's in Philippians 3:4-6 and how Paul saw it differently after his conversion based on what he says in Philippians 3:9.

7. No one succeeds in denying the self all the time and living for Christ in every way, but what is the evidence that we are growing in Christ and, therefore, our life is no longer our own? (Be careful you don't end up with a list similar to Paul's pre-Christian attributes he lists in Philippians 3.)

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Easter 2024

"Are We Okay, God?"

Acts 9:1-19

1 Corinthians 15: ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 9: 1 ...Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?...

How can you be confident that you and God are on good terms?

1 Timothy 1: ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1. People in a right relationship with God are acutely aware of their _____.

Paul was blinded by God to help him see his _____.

Paul was so good that he failed to see his _____.

Philippians 3: ⁴ ...If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ 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; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Although Paul had an impeccable moral record, he had opposed _____ (Acts 9:3-5).

2. People in a right relationship with God rely on Christ's _____ alone.

Paul trades his moral record for _____ record (Philippians 3:9).

When God sees Jesus' followers, his people, he sees _____ (Acts 9:4-5).

Galatians 1: ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5: ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Paul refers to Christians—the ones who are in right relationship with God—as “in Christ” _____ times in his epistles!

To be self-righteous can mean someone is a pompous you-know-what, but it can also mean someone who is “_____ on their own righteousness.”

3. People in a right relationship with God have received God's _____ offered in Christ.

Our _____ goes to Jesus on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:25).

Romans 3: ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. ...

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. (New Living Translation)

“Here's the road that leads to conversion. Here's where the penny drops. Here's where you move from just being a nice person, or a religious person, or a moral person, or an irreligious person to becoming a Christian. Christianity is not achieved; it's received. When you realize, 'When I believe in him, what's true of him is true of me,' that will convert you.” (Tim Keller)

4. People in a right relationship with God recognize that their lives are _____ their own.

We're not only called to live by faith in Christ; we're called to live by faith _____ Christ—for his priorities and agenda (Galatians 1:20).

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Acts 9:1-19, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 9:1. Why was Paul seen as an apostle along the same lines as the 11 disciples of Jesus?
3. Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16 and Philippians 3:4-6. How did Paul see his accomplishments and righteousness before and after his encounter with Jesus, recorded in Acts 9?
4. Paul was an extreme case when it comes to opposing Jesus, but how do we oppose Jesus in our everyday lives?