

PHIL 3: 7-14

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

...THAT I MAY BE FOUND IN HIM

1

...THAT I MAY BE FOUND IN HIM

When compared to the excellence of being in relationship with Jesus, nothing else has any value at all.



...THAT I MAY BE FOUND IN HIM

Lost to the world – found in Christ.

It's one or the other. To truly “gain Christ” we must lose all attachment to the world.

Where's Bob? We've lost him!

Ah, there he is – he's in Christ.

MY OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS

My good character, my qualifications, my achievements, my wisdom, my position in the church, my status, my wealth, my good name...



MY OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS



THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS FROM GOD THROUGH FAITH

The closer we walk with Jesus, the more we will manifest Him.



THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS FROM GOD THROUGH FAITH

- ✘ The righteousness of God in Christ is at work through our faith as we spend time in His presence. We begin to live it out.

“Behold **the** proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But **the just shall live by his faith**” (Hab 2:4)

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS...

This is not for our sakes, to make us “better Christians” – but for His sake:

Relationship with us is what Jesus went to the cross for. God loves us, enjoys us, wants to be with us, and wants to show us amazing stuff.



NOTHING ELSE MATTERS...

How does a child learn to talk?



Through relationship.

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS...

- ✘ If we enjoy the children of our flesh, how much more God enjoys the children of His Spirit.
- ✘ The more time we spend with Him, the more we reveal Him.

FOUND IN HIM

Because He loves us

Because hidden in Him, we're protected



Our strong tower



The armour of God
Ephesians 6:14-17.

NOT FOUND IN HIM...



We're a target for the enemy

FOUND IN HIM

Because in Him, we are filled with His love and can feel His heart.

THE POWER OF LOVE

2

THE POWER OF LOVE

Everything we do and say is to come out of His love: if it doesn't, we have come out of His presence.

Revelation and power gifts:

We don't want to seek them as signs that point to God, but because we love the Father's heart, and HE wants to transform the world around us

THE POWER OF LOVE

Always seek the Giver, not the gifts. Ministry flows from love and through relationship.



THE POWER OF LOVE

Love has no personal agenda:

If I truly love I am “conformed to His death”

And if I’m conformed to his death I can know
His resurrection power!

THE POWER OF LOVE

Love sees people differently

If I look at someone through the eyes of love
I see a different person

To do that I need God's perspective. You see
more from higher up the mountain.

THE POWER OF LOVE

Love is transformational

Only through loving others can we be transformed to become more like Jesus – more like the sons and daughters we are called to be.

THE POWER OF LOVE

He wants us to be in touch with His love all the time. Being filled with the Spirit isn't just stopping for petrol at certain times of the day or week...



...It's driving along with the filler permanently in position.

THE POWER OF LOVE

Different levels in any love relationship



THE POWER OF LOVE

We want to touch the Father's heart

But He wants to be in every level of relationship



THE POWER OF LOVE

In His presence we receive His love.

In His love we receive His vision.



**FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH
FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD**

3

FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

Forgetting is forgetting, not burying. It's permanent. God doesn't want us to be elephants.

He's looking for giraffes.



FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

If we're looking back, we can't see ahead.

We want to colour the present by God's future for us, not by our past.

FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

“I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me”

When we walk alongside him, we can receive His faith (“the faith **of** God”) for what He sees for us.

FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

To reach for what God has prepared for us we need His vision and His love, and to trust His presence. He can see what we can't.



FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

It's impossible to see them with our own eyes,
or walk in them in our own righteousness.

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love
Him." (1 Cor 2:9)*

“But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit”

FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND, I REACH FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

Our eyes see



Our spirit sees



“We have no confidence in the flesh”

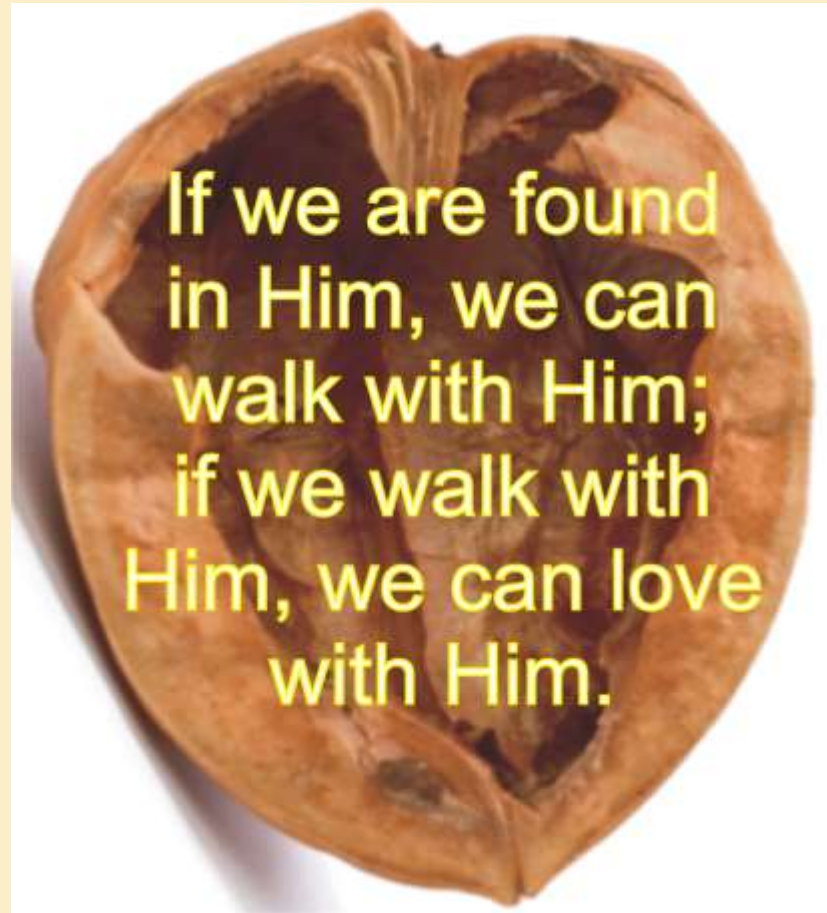
His vision will always express His love.

TWO SENTENCES

All that matters is to be in God's presence:
only in His presence can we know His Love,
and He longs for us to know it always.

Only with the love of Christ in our hearts
can we press into the vision that He has for
us and the world around us.

ONE NUTSHELL



If we are found
in Him, we can
walk with Him;
if we walk with
Him, we can love
with Him.

AN INVITATION TO GOD'S FUTURE

Jesus wants to lift every burden of your own righteousness: "His burden is light"

achievement, status, judgements, "should", gifts without love, work "for God", striving for holiness

Jesus wants to wipe away the tears: from

unfulfilled longings, regrets, disappointments, losses, nostalgia, broken relationships, lost love, guilt and shame

