

## “...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

**Scripture Block:** Pp 1:1-11

**Theme:** GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE

**Life verse:** Pp 1:9-11

**Today’s passage:** Pp 1:11

### Notes

### Interpretation

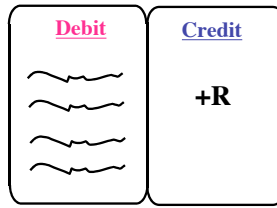
We have come to the key verse in this entire block of Scripture—verse 11. Because of the essential nature of the context, let me remind you one more time: Paul encourages the Philippians with what should be a settled matter in the minds of every Christian—God is at work in their lives; in this case, Paul sees God at work via the way in which the Philippians shared with Paul in the “work of the Gospel”; and lastly, in their efforts to share the Gospel, love should lead the way, life-choices should be centered around things of eternal significance and life should be lived such that when held to the scrutiny of God’ holiness it is without blemish or spot. Verse 11 now brings us to the conclusion of this flow of ideas. For the sake of clarity, I would like to break it down into three pieces as follows:

“...**being filled with the fruit of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to**  
(God’s expectation) (the grace means)

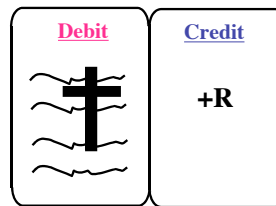
**the glory and praise of God.”**  
(the ultimate result)

Let’s begin with God’s expectation—being filled with the fruit of righteousness. The Greek word translated being filled is to complete that which is lacking or fill a deficiency. The “fruit of righteousness” presents a bit of a grammatical challenge. After weighing the evidence, context and Paul’s typical usage, the best interpretation is to consider the “fruit” to be the result of a believer’s righteous standing—in Christ. This requires us to briefly review the Biblical concept of “imputed righteousness.”

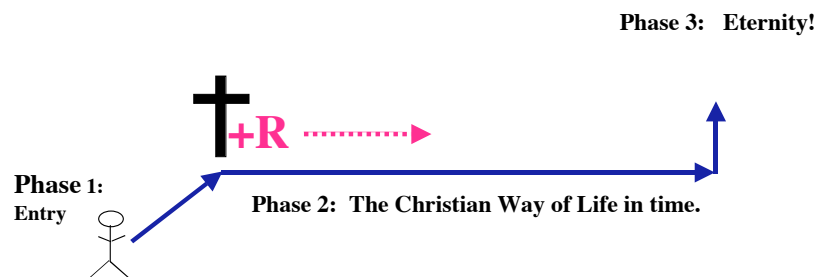
- 1) Every believer, at the moment of faith in Christ, receives the imputation of righteousness—God’s righteousness! Rm 3:21-f, 2Cr 5:21
- 2) The truth of imputed righteousness awakens us to the fact that God’s plan of salvation did not stop at the payment for sin, but continued on to justification. You see to enter into the presence of a holy, righteous God, and to spend forever with Him requires two things:



- First, the work of Christ on the cross, which takes care of the “debit” side of the ledger, as Jesus on the cross paid the penalty for every aspect of our debit, i.e. our sin!
- However, in the plan of God, not only is payment for sin required, but we must have a righteousness that will stand the scrutiny of his judgment (Ps 9:8). As Rm 3:21-f makes clear, this need has been met by the imputation of God’s righteousness to everyone who exercises faith in Christ. So in our image above, the debit side is clear and the credit side has received, in grace, the imputation of a perfect righteousness.



3. In keeping with our study of experiential sanctification, God wants fruit in keeping with our standing in Christ. Here is one way to think it through: start with the fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal 5:22, move to other listings of character such as those found in Col 3:12, and then on to acts of righteousness Rv 19:8.



4. I want to leave you with one final thought on this subject: there is a difference between the fruit associated with our imputed righteousness and the “good deeds” that can be done in the flesh—more on that in our next lesson.