

Christ through faith; if we do not receive this righteousness, it all is nothing but refuse, and has no abiding value ~~(word not clear)~~ to us. And here we have this one definite step which is so vital in the life of every Christian, and yet a step which has various facets, which has various portions in it. We step, as Paul says in so many places, "out of ~~dark~~ darkness into light." We step from the power of Satan to the power of God. It is just one step, a step that no human being could take in his own strength, but a step which we take because God enables us through His Holy Spirit, to grasp the faith through Christ, to be saved by virtue of what Christ did on the Cross. No man can win eternal life; no man can earn eternal life. No man can change himself from a creature of wickedness to a creature of righteousness. It is done through the faith of Christ. It is a righteousness which God gives us. It is a righteousness which is available to every man. It is a righteousness which ~~God~~ God provides, ~~and uses~~ and uses men as His instrument in extending the invitation, in calling people to come, in making it clear to them; but it is a gift which God gives, and which no man can give. You cannot save anyone, but you can show them how to be saved. You cannot make them willing to be saved. You cannot make them understand; but you can be God's instrument, God's way marker, God's tool. God uses means, and God desires to use each one of us for this purpose. And in eternity He will be ^{more} interested in how much we were used for this purpose than in anything else that we accomplished or did in our whole life. But then, while the righteousness which is of God by faith comes with one step, and when the step has been made taken there is a complete change. We are either in the kingdom of darkness, or we are in the kingdom of light. Yet if we are in this kingdom there is an on-going progress which has been initiated. There is an on-going progress which has various ~~is~~ steps. And it is these steps which Paul ^{felt} ~~thought~~ were so important that they were worth counting everything else but refuse, in order that he might take these steps that were made available to him through Christ. ~~And~~ And you notice how he sums all of these up in verse 10: "That I may know him; that I may know Christ." You don't really know any