

he learns that righteousness is accounted to him through faith (Phil. iii). God does not attribute to him any act, any conduct which could be rightly called righteous, but only the fact that he has like Abraham received the declaration of God, and that his heart is not right in His sight. It is faith that God counts for righteousness (Rom. iv. 5, 9, 22). Now it is evident that the Pharisee who prayed in the temple did not know this righteousness or feel the need of it. If he had heard of it he would not have desired it, for that would have placed him in the rank of a sinner, and that is exactly what his pride would not suffer.

It is only the sacrifice of Christ that meets the need of the sinner.

“THEY say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of Thy ways.”

—Job, xxi. 14.

With pride I love to think of who and what I am,
 Pride rules my will; pride fills my heart;
 My conscience I defy; to God I will not bow,
 The world and fame I choose; let God and grace
 depart.

“Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud; for the Lord hath spoken.

Give glory to the Lord your God, before He cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and while ye look for light, He turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.”

Jeremiah xiii. 15, 16.