

# Philippians

EUANGELLION “Good News”  
Phil. 1:5,7,12,16,27; 2:22; 4:3,15  
euaggelion

## **Greeting 1:1-11**

## **Paul’s Viewpoint toward His Circumstances 1:12-26**

## **Paul’s Viewpoint toward Philippian Circumstances 1:27-3:21**

An Appeal to Gospel Mentality in face of Opposition 1:27-30

An Appeal to Gospel Mentality in Unity 2:1-4

The Example of Christ 2:5-11

The Outworking of Christ-Like Mentality 2:12-18

Believer Examples of This Mentality 2:19-30

Timothy 19-24

Epaphroditus 25-30

## **Paul’s Viewpoint toward Philippian Circumstances 3&4**

Exhortation toward MA 3:1-4a

Paul’s Past MA 3:4b-6



Phil. 3:3c ... *and put no confidence in the flesh,*  
kai«ouk en sarki«pepoiqtēß,

*and* KAI - causal connective

*no* OUK - not

*in ~~the~~ flesh* EN SARKOS - in flesh (character/quality/nature)  
“Human Effort”

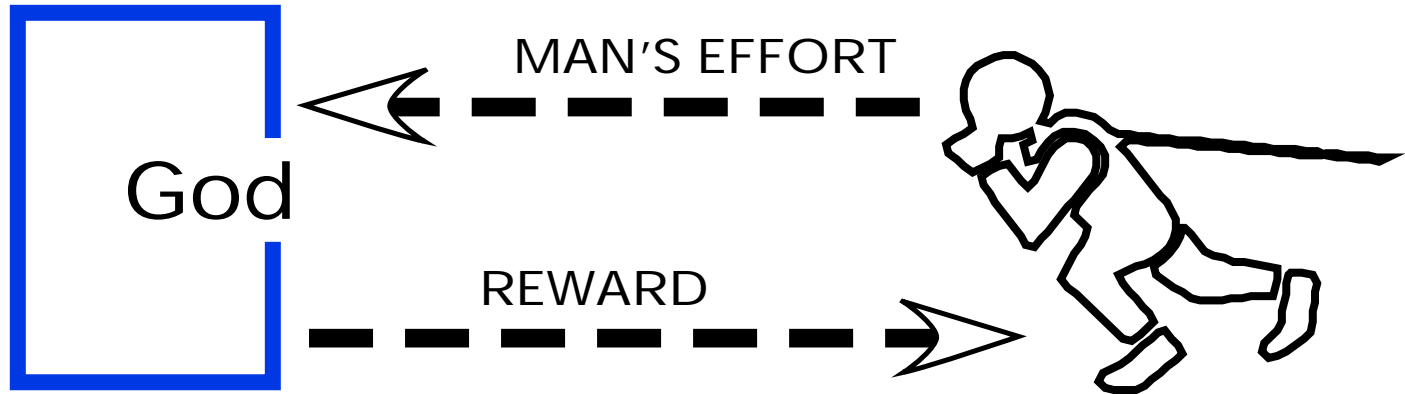
*(the ones) having put confidence*



PEITHW - *part.* to be confident, persuaded

Mental Attitude **during Christian life**, not how to be saved

# The Merit Principle



*although I myself might have confidence  
even in the flesh.*

kaiper egw»own pepoi»hsin kai»en sarki÷

*although*

KAI + PER - causal connective

*I myself*

EGW - causal connective

(...)

*having* →

ECHW - part

*confidence*

PEITHW - n.

*even*

KAI - adverbial use

*in ~~the~~ flesh.*

EN SARKOS - causal connective

*“Human Effort”*

Phil. 3:4b

*If anyone else has a mind to put confidence  
in the flesh,*

Εἰ τίς dokei αὐτὸς πεποιῆσθαι ἐν σαρκί·

*If*

EI - causal connective

*anyone else*

TIS - indefinite pronoun

*is thinking*



DOKEW - to think

*another (way)*

ALLOS - indefinite pronoun

*to put confidence*

PEITHW - causal connective

*in the flesh*

EN SARKOS - causal connective

*“Human Effort”*

**FACT:**

**Some are  
thinking this  
way**

Matt 23

*Phil. 3:4c ... I far more:*

egw»mall on:

*I* EGW - personal pronoun

*far more* MALLON - adv

**CONCLUSION:**

**PAUL  
TOTAL  
CONFIDENCE  
IN FLESH**

*“Human Effort”*

Unique Paul

#1 Merit Man *Phil 3:4*

#1 Sinner Man *1Cor. 9:2; 15:9; 2Cor. 11:5; Eph. 3:8*

# Seven Items of Merit

Paul's Former MA based upon human merit

Listing of superior merits as a 'spiritual' man



Phil. 3:5a ... *circumcised the eighth day*

peritomhō ktahrēroß,

*circumcised the eighth day*

PERITOMJ OKTAJMEROS - circumcised eighth one

same as ear lobes pierced

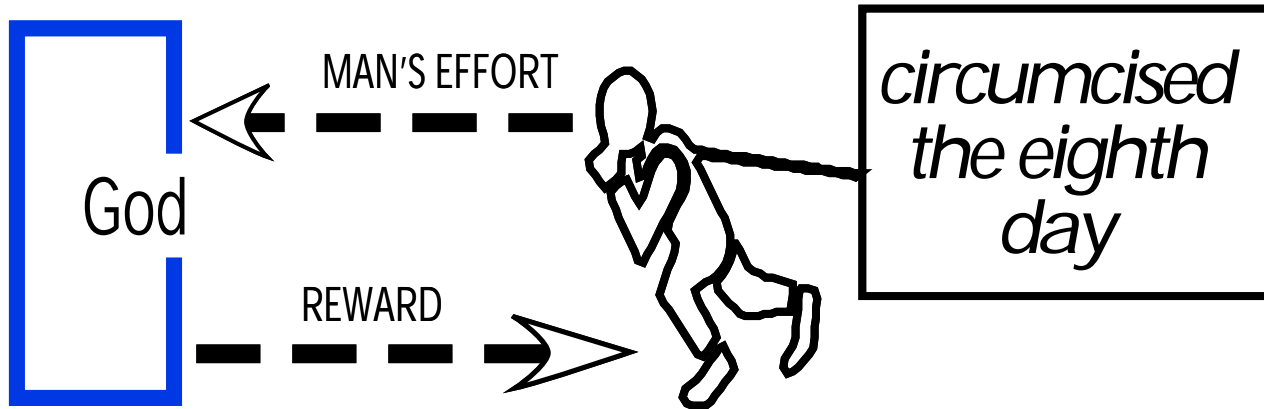
Why meritorious ?      Link to father Abraham and the  
promises of God and the Law

Gen. 17:9,12; 21:4; Lev. 12:3; Luke 1:59;  
2:21; Acts 7:8; Phil. 3:5

#1 Item a Jew - circumcision

“right kind” was eighth day

# The Merit Principle



Abraham was already saved when circumcised

to God ?

spiritual advantage ??

to Man ?

Phil. 3:5b ... *of the nation of Israel*, ...  
ek genouß Israhl,

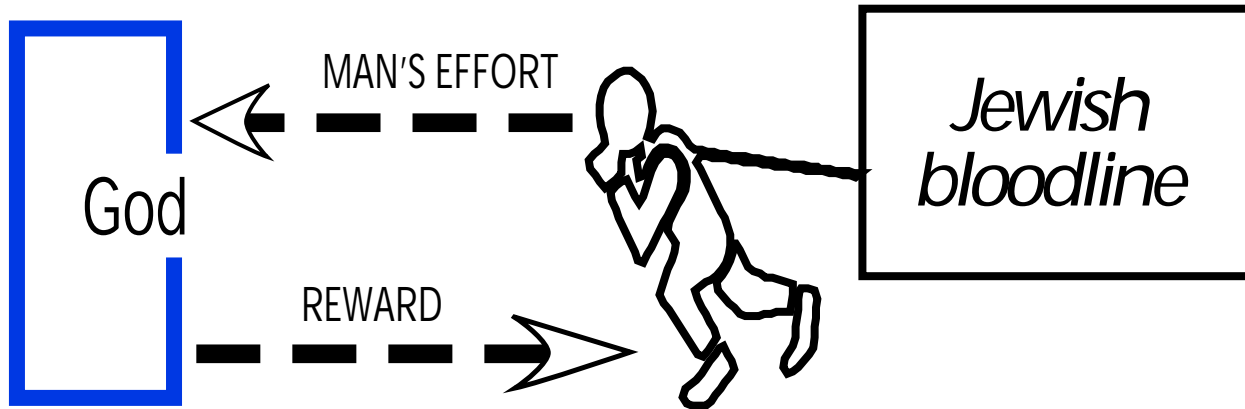
*of* ... EK - out of as a source

*of begetting* GENOUS - v. to begat, n. begetting, generation

*of Israel* ISRAJL - personal pronoun

An Israelite !!

# The Merit Principle



Jew thought 'physical, visible' Israel

God meant 'spiritual, invisible' Israel    *\*Rom 9:6b*

spiritual advantage ??

to God ?

to Man ?

*Phil. 3:5c ... of the tribe of Benjamin, ...*

ful h8 Beniamin

*tribe* PHULJS - tribe

*Benjamin* BENIAMIN - Benjamin

*Gen. 35:18-26; Gen 49:27*

*Rom 11:1* Paul notes it again

From the tribe of beloved Benjamin

the only son born in the land of promise ... *Gn 35:16-18*

Benjamin & Judah formed Israel of divided monarchy *Ez 4:1*

Jerusalem and the Temple inside territory of Benjamin *Judges 1:21*

Saul First King Israel *1Ki 12:21*

Perhaps Paul was named after that famous Benjaminite ...

Benjamin: son of my right hand.

(1.) The younger son of Jacob by Rachel (Gen. 35:18). His birth took place at Ephrath, on the road between Bethel and Bethlehem, at a short distance from the latter place. His mother died in giving him birth, and with her last breath named him Ben-oni, son of my pain, a name which was changed by his father into Benjamin. His posterity are called Benjamites (Gen. 49:27; Deut. 33:12; Josh. 18:21).

The tribe of Benjamin at the Exodus was the smallest but one (Num. 1:36, 37; Ps. 68:27). During the march its place was along with Manasseh and Ephraim on the west of the tabernacle. At the entrance into Canaan it counted 45,600 warriors. It has been inferred by some from the words of Jacob (Gen. 49:27) that the figure of a wolf was on the tribal standard. This tribe is mentioned in Rom. 11:1; Phil. 3:5.

The inheritance of this tribe lay immediately to the south of that of Ephraim, and was about 26 miles in length and 12 in breadth. Its eastern boundary was the Jordan. Dan intervened between it and the Philistines. Its chief towns are named in Josh. 18:21-28.

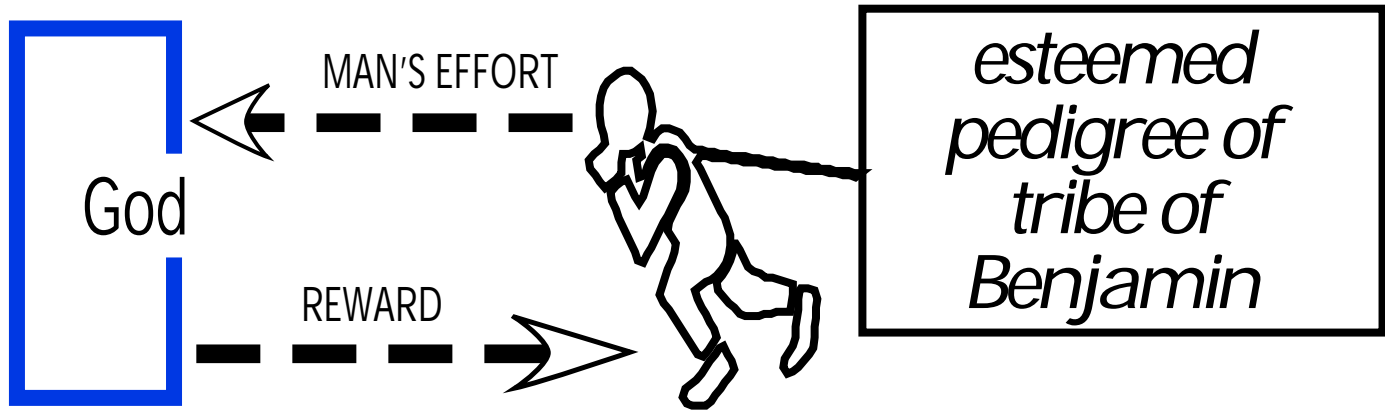
The history of the tribe contains a sad record of a desolating civil war in which they were engaged with the other eleven tribes. By it they were almost exterminated (Judg. 20:20, 21; 21:10). (See GIBEAH.)

The first king of the Jews was Saul, a Benjamite. A close alliance was formed between this tribe and that of Judah in the time of David (2 Sam. 19:16, 17), which continued after his death (1 Kings 11:13; 12:20). After the Exile these two tribes formed the great body of the Jewish nation (Ezra 1:5; 10:9).

The tribe of Benjamin was famous for its archers (1 Sam. 20:20, 36; 2 Sam. 1:22; 1 Chr. 8:40; 12:2) and slingers (Judge. 20:6).

The gate of Benjamin, on the north side of Jerusalem (Jer. 37:13; 38:7; Zech. 14:10), was so called because it led in the direction of the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. It is called by Jeremiah (Jer. 20:2) "the high gate of Benjamin;" also "the gate of the children of the people" (17:19). (Comp. 2 Kings 14:13.)

# The Merit Principle



spiritual advantage ??

to God ?

to Man ?

*Phil. 3:5d ... Hebrew of the Hebrews*

Ἑβραϊοῦ ex Ἑβραίων

*Hebrew* HEBRAIOS - proper noun sg., quality, character, nature

*of* EK - prep. out of as a source

*the Hebrews* HEBRAIOS - proper noun, pl.

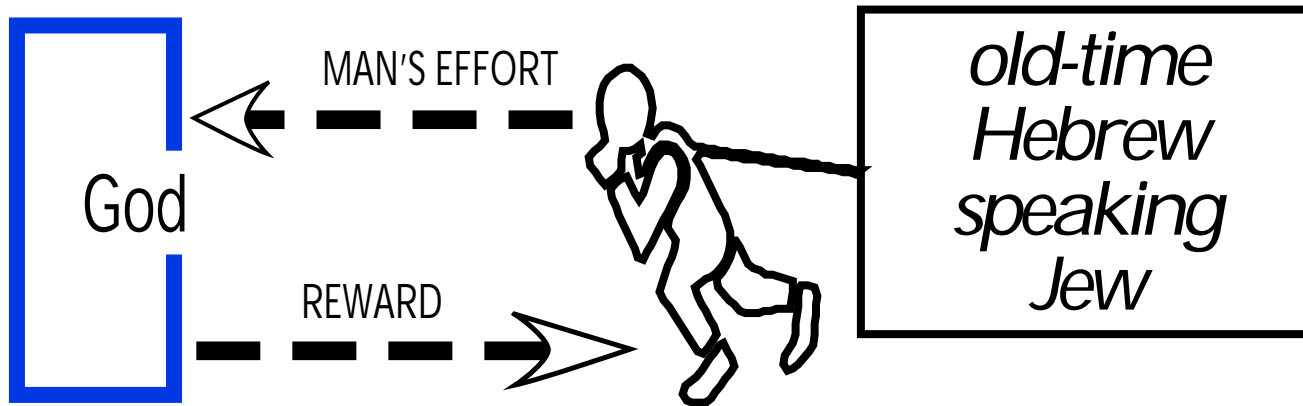
Hebrew of Hebrews (hebrewest of the hebrews) *2Cor 11:22*

ie. spoke aramaic, attended synagogues, dressed  
traditionally, understood Hebrew \*Acts 26:14; 21:40; 22:2,3

not a 'hellenistic' (modern) Jew



# The Merit Principle



spiritual advantage ??

to God ?

to Man ?

*Phil. 3:5e ... as to the Law, a Pharisee;*

kata»nomon Farisaioß,

*as to* KATA - according to

*law principle* NOMOS - law/character/nature/quality  
no article “law/rule principle”

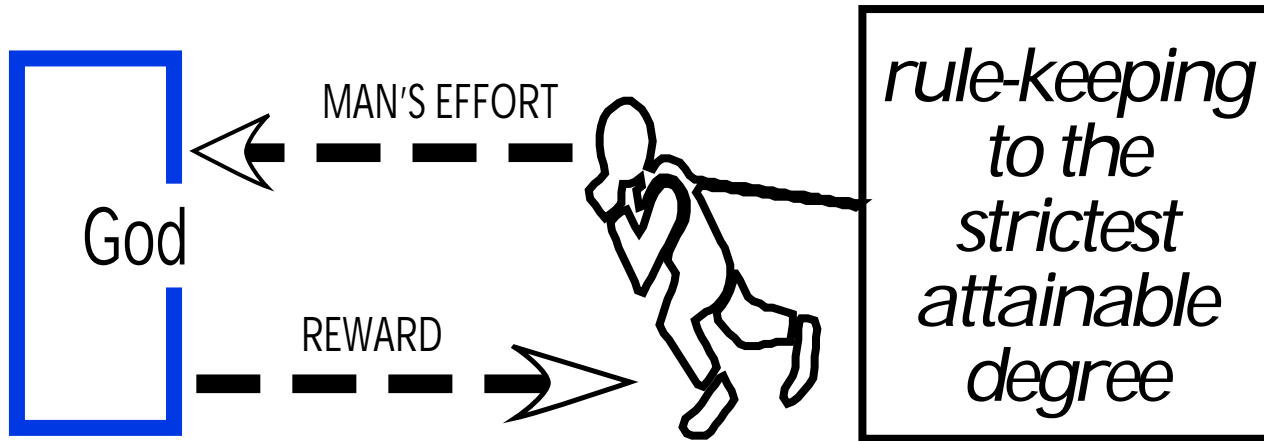
*a Pharisee/character* PHARISIOS - select group of Israelites  
(only reference outside gospels) re-known for their attempted strict  
adherence to attainable Bible and  
religious oral interpretations & traditions.

member of most strict & law keeping group  
Aramaic for Pharisee means separated ones

Great Pharisee Teacher Gamaliel Acts 5:34; 22:3; Gal 1:14  
NOMODIDASKALOS

Purpose of Pharisee life is holiness  
Matt 6:5; 9:11; Acts 15:5

# The Merit Principle



## Typical of holiness, perfectionism, or entire sanctification organizations

*"For all intents and purposes, the basic doctrines of the Alliance and Nazarene denominations are identical. Their central doctrine of "entire sanctification" is based upon John Wesley's "Christian Perfection"--a "perfection" that is adjusted down to a level they feel can be attained. This ploy is characteristic of all "holiness," experience-centered movements."*  
M. Stanford

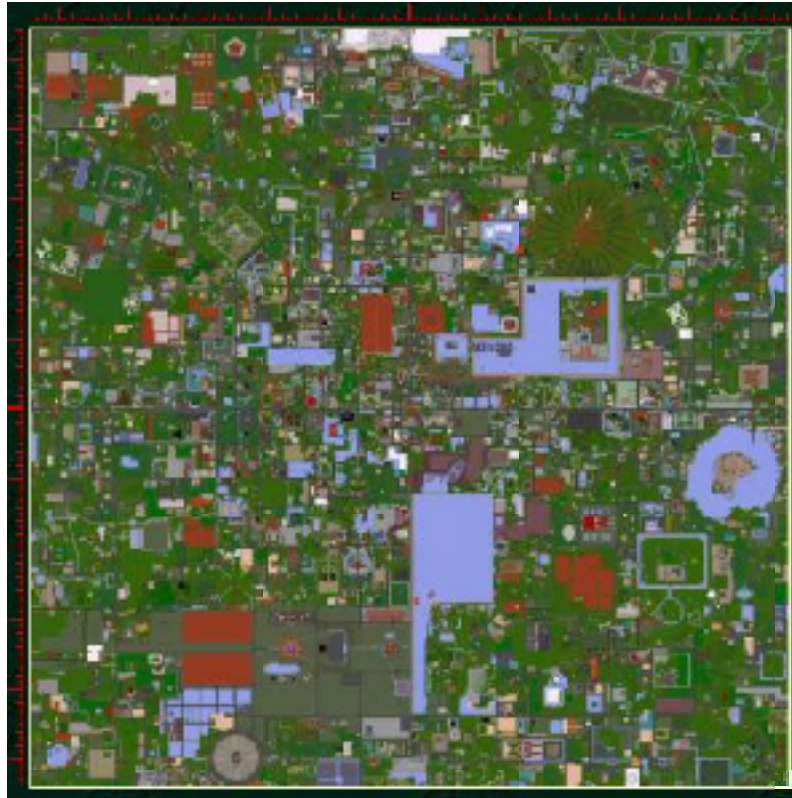
*The Sermon on the Mount remains an "ethical directory for Christians. It is the ultimate formula of ethics for which ideal human nature was fashioned by creation and is destined in eternity. Fallen nature is justified in Christ in conformity to the Sermon, and redeemed nature appropriates it by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God (p. 326, Personal Christian Ethics) (p. 498). --J.R. Gardner*

Matt 23; Mark 3:6; Luke 6:7

to God ?  
spiritual advantage ?? to Man ?



Human Perspective of Relative, Attainable  
Rule Keeping Righteousness



Divine Perspective of Relative, Attainable  
Rule Keeping Righteousness

## Christian organizations involved in merit or performance

Brookings Nazerene

Assembly of God Calvary

Living Waters Foursquare

Lighthouse Assembly of God

Brookings Church of Christ

John  
Wesley  
Derivatives

All Baptist churches are involved in human merit and performance

Brookings-Harbor Christian Church

“Mush”

Brookings Lutheran Church

Brookings Presbyterian Church St Timothy's Episcopal Church

Roman Catholicism only keep rules in all ways - Totally Merit Driven

## Non-Christian organizations involved in merit or performance

Mormans, Seventh Adventists, Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses

Christian Science Church, First Church of Christ Scientist

Masons, Eagles, Kiwanas, Outreach Gospel Mission

(At times, Harbor Bible Church ??)

Phil. 3:6a ... *as to zeal, a persecutor of the church*  
kata»zhvoß diwkwñ thñ ekklhsian,

*as to* KATA - according to

*zeal* ZJLOS - zeal, jealous      zeal for God in OT was highly praised Num 25:10-13

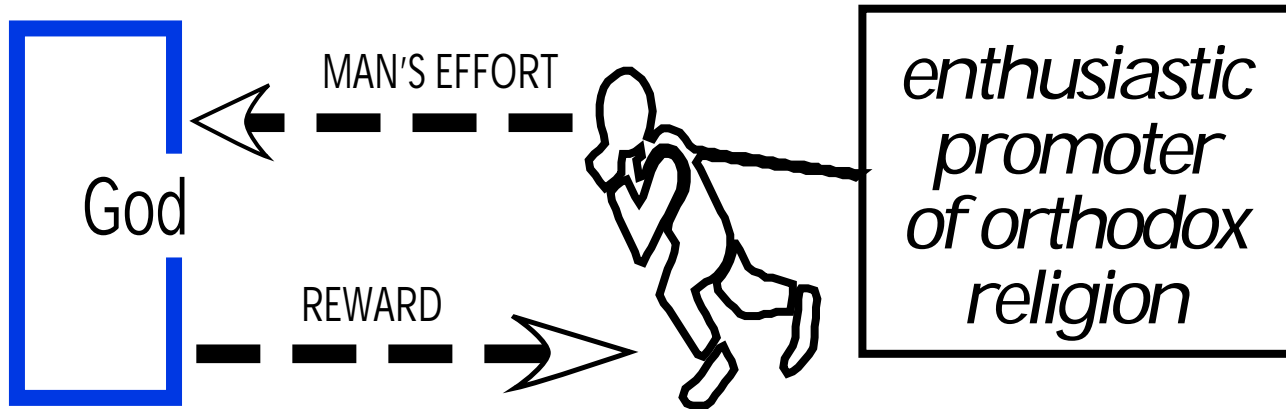
*one persecuting* DIWKJW - to pursue, persecute, chase

*of the church* H EKKLHSIA - the ecclesia

Saul was an enthusiastic opposer of the divergent heresy, the Church

Gal 1:13-14,23; 1Tim 1:13; Acts 9:4-5,13-14,21

# The Merit Principle



“and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?””  
(Acts 9:4, NAS95S)

spiritual advantage ?? to God ?  
to Man ?



Phil. 3:6b ... *as to the righteousness which is in the Law,  
found blameless.*

BAD  
Translation

kata»dikaiousunhn thn en nomw^genomenoß amemptoß.

*as to* KATA - according to

*righteousness/quality*

DIAKAISUNJ - righteousness  
/quality/character

*the one*

H (...) - the ... fem sg.n.

*in merit*

EN NOMOS - in/with/among law/quality/character  
law principle = merit

*having become*

GENOMAI - aor mid part nom m.s.

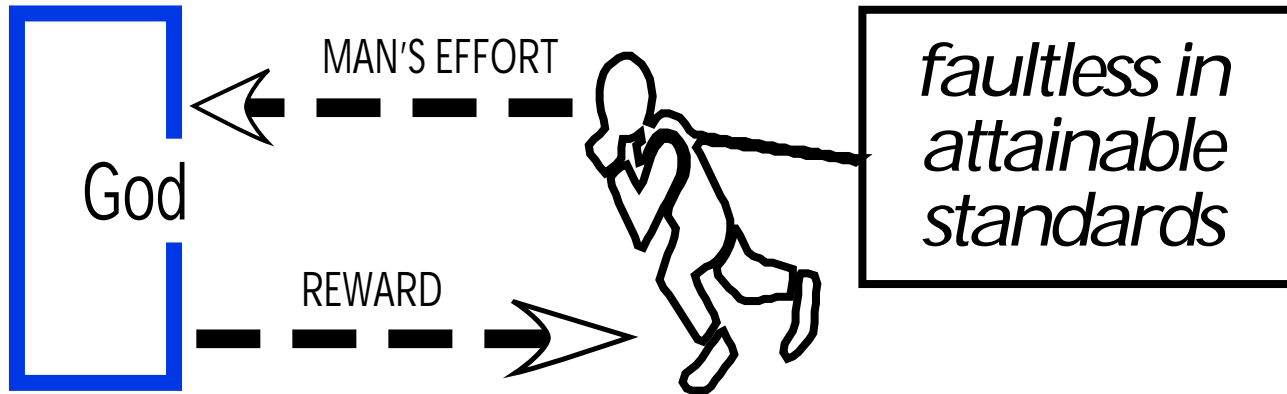
*unchargeable*

AMEMPTOS - not + blame/fault adj m.s.  
un-criticizable

Gen. 17:1; Job 1:1; 2:3; Luke  
1:6; Phil. 2:15; 3:6; Heb. 8:7

not blameless in absolute sense  
only in the relative sense, blameless  
in the eyes of themselves or other folks

# The Merit Principle



## Perfectionism, holiness, entire sanctification

*outwardly (most of the time) good person, do not lie, do not steal, do not murder, do not commit adultery, go to church, help poor & needy, church usher, try to be good Christian*

Luke 18:18-21

FLAG - division of sins  
(mortal & venial),  
(moral & ceremonial)  
(clean & unclean)

spiritual advantage ??      to God ?  
to Man ?

*... But whatever things were gain to me,*

[Al l a} a,tina hFMmoi kerδh,

~~*But*~~ [Al l a} [] signifies very doubtful in original text

*whatever things* HIATINA - rel prn f.s. nom

*were* EIMI - to exist, continually  
in past time up to now

**ACTUAL VALUE TO PAUL AT ONE TIME !!**

*to me* EGW - (to) me  
(not God)

*gain* KERDJ - f.s. n. gain, advantage

Phil. 3:7b ... *those things I have counted as loss  
for the sake of Christ.*

tauva hghmai dia»ton Criston zhman.

*those things*

TAUTA - near demonstrative prn  
near in the context

*I have counted as*

HJGJMAI - to count

*for the sake of Christ*

DIA - because of

**because of**  
*prep.*

On account of; by reason of.

**for the sake of**

1. Also **for one's sake**. Out of consideration or regard for a person or thing; for someone's or something's advantage or good. For example, *For Jill's sake we did not serve meat*, or *We have to stop fighting for the sake of family unity*. [Early 1200s]

*loss*

ZJMIA - loss/quality/character

Mark 8:36; Gal 2.15-21

not a particular loss, like a ballgame

more like a systemic loss, always is a loss,  
no possibility of win

METANOIA to change mind from something to something else

My things of merit value  
are NOW  
My things are worthlessness

True Righteousness found only in JC

*Phil 3:8-9; Rom 14:17*

to be cont ...