

"The Life Of Faith" by Ruth Bryan

To know nothing but Jesus; to delight in no other; to look nowhere else for holiness, happiness, and fruitfulness—this is the life of faith, and "living godly in Christ Jesus." His love is a bottomless, shoreless ocean, in which we shall be absorbed forever and ever!

"So Many Truly Sincere & Religious People" by J.C.Philpot

"Cornelius.....a devout man, and one who feared God with all his house, who gave gifts for the needy generously to the people, and always prayed to God."

Acts 10:1, 2

Yet Cornelius wasn't saved! (Acts 11:14). A generous centurion builds a synagogue (Luke 7:3-5). A young man keeps the commandments from his youth up (Luke 18:21). Balaam prophesies (Numbers 23:16). Saul weeps (1 Samuel 24:16). Judas preaches the gospel (Matthew 10:5-8). Yet none of these men were saved! It is at times, enough to fill one's heart with mingled astonishment and sorrow—to see so many truly sincere and religious people, whose religion will leave them short of eternal life—because they are destitute of saving grace. To see so much amiability, benevolence, devotedness, self-denial, liberality, loveliness of character, integrity, consistency of life—all inescapably dashed against the rock of inflexible justice, and there shattered and lost—swallowed up with its unhappy possessors in the raging billows beneath—such a sight, did we not know that the Judge of the whole earth cannot do wrong, would indeed stagger us to the very center of our being!

"Spiritual Fragment" by William Gadsby

When God, in his rich grace, takes a poor sinner manifestatively in hand, the first thing he does is to give life and light; when this divine life and light are communicated, the dead soul is quickened, and the dark soul is enlightened. We begin to see sin in the light of God's countenance, and even our secret sins are laid open to the conscience, and we both see and feel that it is an evil and bitter thing to sin against God. The pure life and light of God, placed in the conscience against our vile deadness and darkness, horrifies the soul; and though we may not be able to account for our feelings and sight, we do find that we have such as we never had before, and such as we cannot get rid of. We now become, in soul and feeling, real sinners before a heart-searching God, and really tremble at his word; and in our souls we both see and feel that all our sins have been against a holy, just, and good God. We both feel and see that God is pure and we are impure, that God is just and we are unjust, and that there is an awful disparity between God and us, and we cry, "What poor, vile sinner like me can stand before such a holy God, whose law I have broken in so many ways, and whose majesty I have so often insulted?"

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6/4/17

Call To Worship

All my sins imputed were
To my dear incarnate God;
Buried in His grave they are,
Drown'd in His atoning blood;
Lord, thou canst not me condemn,
Righteous and complete in Him.

In the Saviour's right, I claim,
All the blessings He hath bough;
For my soul the dying Lamb,
Hath a full redemption wrought;
I in glory soon shall shine,
I am Christ's, and Christ is mine.

Words by Augustus Toplady
(Tune: "Rock Of Ages," p.126)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Judy Ward; Cindy Brantly; Emily Dubose;
Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams; Lydia Headrick

A Note From Bro. Richard

It is such a blessing to know that the Lord has been pleased up to bring men into our midst who can faithfully and dogmatically declare God's Gospel. In my absence Aub Ward and Kenny Dyess have graciously stepped in to teach and preach the Gospel to you today. I am thankful to them, as well as to Buddy Taylor for taking care of all those things concerning the work of the ministry so I can be away. Lord willing, Pam and I will be back with you next Sunday, June 11th. Please pray for all these men as they seek to lead you in worship today.

“When we realize a constant enemy of the soul abides within us, what diligence and watchfulness we should have! How woeful is the sloth and negligence then of so many who live blind and asleep to this reality of sin. There is an exceeding efficacy and power in the indwelling sin of believers, for it constantly inclines itself towards evil. We need to be awake, then, if our hearts would know the ways of God. Our enemy is not only upon us, as it was with Samson, but it is also in us.”

John Owen

From William Mason's "Evening Thought"

"To **THEM WHO HAVE OBTAINED** like precious faith with us through [in] the righteousness of GOD, and [even] our Saviour **JESUS CHRIST.**" **2 Pet. 1:1.**

There may be strong faith, where there is no true faith. Persons may pretend to have the assurance of faith—may believe that their sins are forgiven, without one grain of precious faith. Who believes more than a Deist does? He believes he has wisdom to guide, and power to save himself, without either the word, or the grace of God. Who has stronger faith than the self-righteous Pharisee had? He believed he had a right to go to God—to plead his works before God—and to assure his heart that he was accepted of God. He wanted no righteousness from God. This is just such a faith, which all unregenerate men have. It is not a precious faith—it is not obtained through the precious righteousness of Christ—it doth not make his glorious person, and everlasting righteousness precious to the heart—it does not cause such, to renounce the filthy rags of their own righteousness, and to delight in God, as justifying the ungodly, through the righteousness of Christ; and sanctifying the unholy, through the Spirit of his grace. That faith is ever to be suspected, as only a rank weed, which grows in the corrupt soil of human nature, if the possessors of it see not the evils of sin which is in them, the curse it has brought upon them, and that nothing can relieve their conscience, support their mind, bring hope to their heart, and joy to their spirits, but the one spotless righteousness of Christ, in which sinners stand perfectly justified before God. **HE, WHO DARES OPEN HIS MOUTH, IN OBJECTIONS AGAIN GOD, IMPUTING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HIS SON, FREELY TO SINNERS, AND FULLY JUSTIFYING THEM THEREBY, IS SHREWDLY TO BE SUSPECTED,** that so far from having obtained “like precious faith” with the apostles, his heart is not yet convinced of sin. Precious faith will shew itself by its fruits inward as well as outward. The heart will bow to God’s sovereign will, receive his doctrines of grace, in the love of them, and not object and cavil against them. It will glory, that salvation from first to last, is not of works but of grace. And it will experience, that the grace of God which bringeth salvation, most sweetly, and powerfully, teaches to deny all ungodliness, and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world. Most sweetly says one, “Surely, there can be no greater honor to Christ than this, in the sense of sin, wants, stains, and blemishes, to wrap ourselves in the righteousness of Christ, and with boldness to go clothed in the garments of this our elder Brother, to the throne of grace.” This is the glory of faith, Lord grant it may be ours!