

Happy Anniversary This Week:

Jonathan and Chasity Taylor - **May 27**

Happy Birthday This Week:

Kenny Dyess - **May 22**

Anna Sasser - **May 24**

A Sinless Nature or Righteousness Imputed?

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." I John 3:9

When I read that *"whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin"*, I wonder how this can be. I hear different ones explaining their theories that if born again, there is a "sinless righteousness" that we have that is created in us, that does not sin. However, as I have questioned these about this, I can never get a straight answer as to exactly how this keeps me from sinning. Some say that it is by this "imparted righteousness" that we can actually love God as we ought, and to pray, witness, believe, etc. And yet, when I ask those who claim to have such a nature to tell me one instance where they have prayed a sinless prayer, or done a perfect work, or believed as they ought, they "hem and haw." For any who are honest and indeed troubled by their sin, I believe there is a clearer explanation that John is writing of, under the inspiration of the Spirit. He wrote earlier in I John 1:9 that if we say that we have not sinned [having sinned in Adam with continuing ongoing effects], we make God a liar. Then again in I John 2:1, John affirms the necessity of Christ's ongoing role as Advocate because of our bent to sin. If there were a sinless nature imparted to us at regeneration, what then would be the need for Christ's ongoing advocacy? Why the call of scripture to be transformed by the **RENEWING OF OUR MIND**, in Romans 12:2?

The only answer I can find is that it refers to our standing in Christ and His **IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS** through His obedience unto death. If I am born of God, it is because Christ has already put away **ALL** my sin in His death, His wrath removed, and I am thereby **JUSTIFIED** and acquitted of **ALL** charges against me, - **Acts 13:39**. Yes, I acknowledge that ongoing, unchangeable sin nature within me, which the Spirit of God causes me to confess continually before God. However, in so doing, I have the assurance that He is faithful and just to continue to forgive and cleanse me of all my unrighteousness because of the death of His Son on my behalf - **I John 1:9**. The renewing of the mind then is by the Spirit of God causing me to look away from sin and self to the **ONLY** righteousness of God, that was already imputed to me at the cross, and by which God continually looks upon me as sinless - **Heb. 8:12, 10:17. Romans 4:15**- *"for where no law is, there is no transgression."* Christ satisfied the law, therefore, there is no more sin to condemn for those He redeemed by His shed blood of the God sent Christ at Calvary - **Romans 10:4**.

Pastor Ken Wimer

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5/21/17

Call To Worship

[Imputed righteousness is strange,
Nor will with human fancies range;
We guess the lurking motive well,
And Paul the hateful truth shall tell."

The lofty heart can not submit
To cast itself at Jesus' feet;
It scorns in borrowed robes to shine,
Though weaved with righteousness Divine.

Proud nature cries, with loathing eyes,
"This **IMPUTATION** I despise,"
And from it she will pertly start
Till grace has broken down her heart.

O give me, Lord, **THY RIGHTEOUSNESS**,
To be my peace and wedding dress!
My sores it heals, my rags it hides,
And makes me dutiful besides.

(Words by J.Berridge)

(Tune: "DOXOLOGY")

Remember In Prayer This Week:

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

.I remember, that after my poor heart had wandered from the sweet enjoyment of the Lord, and I had got entangled with some flesh-pleasing idols, the Lord brought me feelingly into Ezekiel 16, for that chapter contains a solemn figure of the wandering, backsliding heart of a child of God. Almost every sentence of it cut me up, and I said to myself, This is my case. In a spiritual sense, I am this vile fornicator, I have acted this base part; whatever becomes of these base characters in the end, I must go with them. But I think I shall never forget the conclusion, for a blessed one it is: "*And I will establish my covenant with thee, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; that thou mayest remember and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee, for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God.*"(Ezek.16:62,63) This, this is matchless grace. Here the Lord shames us out of our sins, and kisses us into obedience. - Gadsby.

"Justified By An Imputed Righteousness"

The majority of religious people have no idea that the doctrine of justification by an imputed righteousness represents the foundational truth of Biblical Christianity. Most people I encounter don't even know the words "impute" or "imputed" are Scriptural words. Modern religion has convinced lost religious men and women that God has changed the way He deals with men; therefore we have to change our approach to reach lost sinners. Most religion no longer emphasizes the Doctrines of Grace, but have replaced doctrine with emotionalism and sentimentalism. It seems like doctrine (Scriptural teaching) is a dirty word to this generation. Sadly, most people would rather sing, or give testimonies, or be entertained, than hear about the glorious Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. They choose a Church based on what entertainment it provides for their children, or what social advantages it provides them as adults, as opposed to those doctrines which glorify God as a "*just God and a Savior*", exalt Christ as the **ONLY** Savior of sinners, and exclude all boasting in human flesh.

To keep it as simple as I can, the sinner's justification before God (being declared legally righteous, having both the penalty, guilt, and defilement of sin eternally removed) , can only be accomplished in one way-"*For He (God the Father) hath made Him (Christ the Son) to be sin for us (God's elect), who knew no sin (this refers ONLY to Christ); that we (God's elect) might be made the righteousness of God in Him (Christ the Son).*"(II Cor.5:21) In what way could Christ be "*MADE*" sin by the Father? We know Christ was "*holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.*"(Heb.7:26) He never thought an evil thought or performed an evil deed while in the flesh. Even when they hated Him without a cause and nailed Him to the cross, He "*loved His neighbor (including His worst enemy) as Himself.*" The **ONLY WAY** He could be "*made sin*" and still be our Savior was through the elect's sins (**ALL OF THEM**) being **IMPUTED** (legally reckoned or charged) to Christ-"*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*"(I Pet.2:24) Now in the same way that Christ was "*MADE SIN*", i.e., by a legal transaction where God charged all the sins of God's elect to Christ, requiring from Christ as their Sin-bearer the full penalty for their debt ("*The wages of sin are death*" - Rom.6:23), all God's elect were at the Cross, "*made the righteousness of God in Him.*", i.e., by a legal transaction, God the Father charged all the merit of Christ's perfect righteousness as the sinner's Substitute to the account of **ALL GOD'S ELECT**- "*Even as David also describeth the blessedness (eternal happiness) of the man, unto whom God imputeth (legally reckoned) righteousness WITHOUT WORKS.*" (Rom.4:6) **How important is this truth?** Any sinner who is ignorant of it or who will not submit to it are at present in a state of lostness-**Read Rom.10:1-4 prayerfully.** God help you to rest in Christ's righteousness imputed as your **ONLY HOPE** of justification.

Bro.Richard