

HOW DO WE APPEAR IN GOD'S SIGHT?

Proud, unbelieving men work hard to have an appearance of righteousness, holiness, and piety before men, but the vital issue of eternal life is how we appear before God. Christ rebuked the Pharisees over this issue – *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity (Matt. 23:27-28).* They appeared righteous before men, but it was only an outward show. God judges according to truth, not outward show. God looks on the heart. Rest assured that if a sinner appears righteous unto God, that sinner is truly righteous in God’s sight. It is neither a fake, pretend, nor merely outward righteousness. How, then, is it possible that a **SINNER** could truly appear righteous **IN GOD’S SIGHT**? The only way of righteousness before God is not by our works but only by God’s grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. Like Noah, the only way for a sinner to be found righteous in God’s sight is to find *“grace in the eyes of the LORD”* (Gen. 6:8). And God’s grace reigns *“through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 5:21). This is the righteousness of God we find only in Christ. As Christ was *“made sin for us”* (our sins imputed, accounted, charged to Him), we are *“made the righteousness of God **IN HIM**”* (His righteousness imputed, accounted, charged to us) (2 Cor. 5:21). This is not a pretend righteousness but one that stands the test of God’s holy law and justice as we stand before Him in Christ (Rom. 8:31-34; Php. 3:7-10). As the result of this work of Christ for us, God’s people are given by the Holy Spirit, in the new birth, the reality of the power of spiritual life and faith from and in the Lord Jesus Christ. As our righteousness in Christ is not merely an outward show, our faith is not merely an outward profession. It is true heart faith in Christ as the Lord our Righteousness. Paul wrote of this as the *“circumcision of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not men, but of God”* (Rom. 2:29). We who are made the righteousness of God in Christ are also born again by the Holy Spirit, and we glory **NOT** in appearance, but in heart (2 Cor. 5:12). This means we truly and sincerely glory in Christ from the new heart. This is how we appear **IN GOD’S SIGHT**. We who are righteous in Christ have spiritual life by which we glory in Christ and stand **BEFORE GOD AS RIGHTEOUS**.

Pastor Bill Parker

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5/7/17

Call To Worship

Unto the Lord, this sinner owed
A debt I could not pay;
My sins were such an awful load,
But Christ put them away. (REPEAT)

His blood has washed away my shame,
And satisfaction made;
O bless the dear Redeemer's name,
My ransom price is paid. (REPEAT)

Salvation unto Christ I owe,
O what a gracious Friend.
He washed and made me white as snow,
On Him my hopes depend. (REPEAT)

Someday in heav'n I'll sing His praise,
With all the ransomed throng;
And joyfully my voice I'll raise,
To sing redemption's song. (REPEAT)

(Tune: "All Things Work Out For Good ", pg.267)

Happy Birthday This Week:

Lauren Ward - **May 8**

Noah Crain - **May 9**

Sallie Barfield - **May 13**

Chasity Taylor - **May 13**

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker this morning Pastor Bill Parker from Eager Avenue Grace Church in Albany Georgia. We are also so pleased to have his wife Debbie with us as well. Please stay with us after services this morning for a special fellowship meal as we end our Bible conference.

If you have missed any of the other services, Lord willing , I will have all of them uploaded to Sermon Audio early this week. They will be available for download in both audio and video format. They can be found at: www.sermonaudio.com/graceofruston.

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Judy Ward; Noble Jones; Cindy Brantly;

Emily Dubose; Devonne Lewis;

Dusty Adams; Emily Gay; Lydia Headrick

Who Is Like Unto Our God?

*"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us: he will subdue our iniquities: and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."*Micah 7:18,19.

My soul! hast thou ever duly and thoroughly pondered over the several interesting volumes of grace recorded in this glorious scripture? If not, make them the subject of this evening's, song. Let every chapter contained in them, pass and re-pass in review before thee, and see whether, in the close of the whole, the astonishment of the man of God is not thine also; crying out, "Who is a God like our God? a God in Christ, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin!" And, first, "He pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his people." Yes; in Jesus, the Son of his love, he hath done all this, and more than this, for he hath taken the objects of his clemency into favour. Secondly, the cause of all these unspeakable felicities is assigned; "because he delighteth in mercy." It is from himself, and his own free sovereign grace, that these blessings flow. Not what the highly-favoured objects merit, but what grace can do for them. Not what claims they have to his bounty, but how his grace can best be magnified in their salvation. Sweet and precious consideration to the breast of every poor sinner! My soul! I hope that thou canst truly participate in the delightful thought. Thirdly, he that in mercy, will delight to "turn again" to his people. He will turn their hearts to himself, and then his returns to them will sweetly follow, to their apprehension, and to their joy. "Fourthly, he will not only pardon their iniquity, but "he will subdue their iniquities: not only take away the guilt of sin, but also destroy the dominion of sin; not only cast their sins behind his back, but "cast them into the depths of the sea:" and so effectually shall they be lost, that if the sin of Judah be sought for, it shall not be found. The depths of the sea, that fountain which God hath opened in the Redeemer's blood, shall more completely bury them, than the congregated waters of the ocean cover any mountain or hill cast into them. Say now, my soul! dost thou not look up to a God in Christ, and cry out, with the prophet, in the same holy rapture and astonishment, "Who is a God like unto thee?"

Robert Hawker's "Poor Man's Morning And Evening Portion"