

What A Mystery Are You!

Touched by love—and stung with hatred! Possessing a little wisdom—and a great deal of folly! Earthly minded—and yet having the affections in heaven! Pressing forward—and lagging behind! Full of sloth—and yet taking the kingdom with violence!

And thus the Spirit, by a process which we may feel but cannot adequately describe—leads us into the mystery of the two natures perpetually struggling and striving against each other in the same bosom. So that one man cannot more differ from another, than the same man differs from himself.

But the mystery of the kingdom of heaven is this— that our carnal mind undergoes no alteration, but maintains a perpetual war with grace. And thus, the deeper we sink in self abasement under a sense of our vileness, the higher we rise in a knowledge of Christ, and the blacker we are in our own view—the more lovely does Jesus appear.

J.C.Philpot

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

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of His grace, IN HIS KINDNESS towards us through Christ Jesus." Eph.2:7.

Pause, my soul, and gather in all the powers of arithmetic, and try if thou art able to count what the exceeding riches of God's grace amount to. Think how great, how free, how sovereign, how inexhaustible, how everlasting! All that a poor sinner hath in time, all that we can enjoy to all eternity, all is of grace. And what a title hath thy God chosen to be known by among his people, when, to make himself known more fully in Jesus, he styles himself "the God of all grace!" All grace? Yes, all grace, and all sorts and degrees of grace: pardoning grace, renewing grace, quickening grace, strengthening grace, comforting grace; in short, all grace. And is all this treasured up in Jesus? Oh then, my soul, see that Jesus be thine, and all is thine. And mark this down as a sure unerring rule—as grace hath no source but in the Father's love, so the exalting that grace, in Jesus is the Father's design in salvation. The brightest pearl in the Redeemer's crown is that which shines with this inscription: "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." Here, my soul, seek thy daily grace more earnestly than thy daily bread.

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Call To Worship

With wondering eyes, Lord, we admire
The feast prepared by grace;
Come, Lord, and set our souls on fire,
And fill each heart with peace.

These emblems of Thy precious love,
By faith may we receive!
And with a solemn pleasure prove,
We in Thy Name believe.

[No Goodness of our own we bring;
We're sinners vile and base;
Christ is our all; of Christ we sing,
And long to see His face]

O may we each, with hear and tongue
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb."
To Him alone the praise belongs,
And we'll adore His Name.

(Words by William Gadsby)
(Tune: "Amazing Grace", pg.236)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Robert Sanders; Tyler Wheeler; Judy Ward; Cathy Cobb;
Cindy Brantly; Emily Dubose; Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams;
Emily Gay; Lydia Headrick; Phylis Payne; Sandra Dyess

"The Caged Wolf" by J.C.Philpot

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil." **Jeremiah 13:23**

The caged wolf does not lose his thirst for blood because it is fenced off in the zoo. Likewise, the sensual, depraved heart of man cannot be regenerated by the outward restraints of morality or religion.

Happy Birthday This Week:
Sarah Dyess - Jan.31

"The Biblical Definition Of JUSTIFICATION"

If you ask the nominal professing Christian to give you a Biblical definition of justification, many of them don't even know what justification is; much less understand the **ABSOLUTE NECESSITY** of believing this Biblical truth. The Apostle Paul said: "*Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.*" (Rom.10:1) These people that Paul declared to be lost, knew the absolute necessity of justification before God, but their ignorance of **HOW** God justified the ungodly based on the righteousness imputed of Christ alone revealed the fact they were lost-"*For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of Gods righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"(Vs.2) The Scriptures conclude that to be ignorant (void of knowledge) of **HOW** God can be a "*just God and a Saviour*", is to be lost. Anytime a sinner is ignorant of God's Righteousness, i.e., that righteousness established solely by Christ's work of redemption at Calvary for the justification of His elect, they will always be going about to establish their own righteousness by their obedience, morality, and as in our generation, by their faith.

In the Scripture, the term justification means to declare or pronounce one to be righteous or holy before God. (Strong's Concordance) We see this in Acts 13:38.39, where the Apostle Paul declared the Gospel to the Jews-"*Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Christ the Lord) is preached (declared) unto you the forgiveness of sins.*" In other words, Paul told them that the only way of salvation was through the **WORK OF CHRIST ALONE**. Notice Vs.39-"*And by Him (by His power) all that believe (literally, are persuaded) are (not will be, but are already) justified (declared legally righteous according to Gods Law and Justice) from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*" From the last part of this verse we see that justification cannot be obtained by personal obedience to the law. Therefore the only hope or cause of justification (being declared legally righteous and holy before God) cannot be personal obedience, sincerity of religion (the Jews had a zeal for God), or even faith. The **ONLY** hope, or cause of **JUSTIFICATION** is Christ's finished work of redemption at Calvary-"*Being (having already been) justified (declared legally righteous) freely (as a gift) by His grace (unmerited favor) THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.*"(Rom.3:24) The cause of justification is the work of redemption performed solely by Christ alone through His substitutionary death at Calvary. This work of redemption **JUSTIFIED** all the elect, **ONCE FOR ALL**, at Calvary. To God be all the praise, glory and honor for His glorious grace.

Bro.Richard