

"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent."(Jn.17:3) Unless we have seen God as He has revealed Himself in our crucified, risen Redeemer, we worship we know not what; and it is of little consequence whether the object of our worship be a stock or a stone, or an idol of our imagination." (copied)

Freely Justified By Grace

(Excerpt from Spiritual Blessings by John Kershaw, 1848)

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Our justification by grace and acceptance with God is only to be found where it is treasured up "in Christ". You cannot find it in yourselves. It has pleased the Father that in the Lord Jesus Christ all fullness should dwell for every poor, sensible soul who is brought by God the Spirit to confess his guilt and misery, feel his need, and have earnest desires, hungerings and thirstings after Christ's justifying righteousness. The Lord brings his people to know that in his solemn presence they are altogether as an unclean thing, and that all their doings and righteousness are as filthy rags. They find that when they would do good evil is present with them; that the good they would they do not, while the evil they would not that they do. So that the poor soul who is brought more and more to feel his own evils, and to see that he has nothing in self to glory in, but that he is as an unclean thing before the Lord, will be led by the Holy Spirit to discover that his justification and acceptance is treasured up in a precious Christ; and he will burst out in the language of the church of old, "Surely shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength"; and again, "In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified and shall glory." Our justification, our acceptance and our glory before a holy God is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Boasting is excluded on every side. Hence the apostle says, "To declare at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? No, but by the law of faith." This is the way, my friends, whereby we are considered just and accepted in Jesus Christ. "Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses." The righteousness of Christ is imputed to the poor sinner. "Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputes not iniquity." The poor sinner's unrighteousness has been washed away in the redeeming blood of the Lamb; he is constituted righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my friends, all who stand on the Rock of Ages, their sin is already done away; we are clad in the Redeemer's righteousness, and stand complete and accepted in the sight of Jehovah. But it is in Christ, my friends. And blessed be God that it is there.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Grace Baptist Church

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4/30/17

Call To Worship

Lord, we adore Thy boundless grace,
The heights and depths unknown,
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace,
In Thy Beloved Son. **(Repeat)**

O wondrous gifts of love divine,
Dear Source of every good;
Jesus, in Thee what glories shine!
How rich Thy flowing blood! **(Repeat)**

Come, all ye pining, hungry, poor,
The Savior's bounty taste;
Behold a never-failing store
For every willing guest. **(Repeat)**

Here shall your numerous wants receive
A free, a full supply;
He has unmeasured bliss to give,
And joys that never die. **(Repeat)**

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

Remember In Prayer This Week:

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

2017 Spring Bible Conference Schedule

Friday, May 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 6 - 10:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon - Fish Fry at Barfield Farms - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - May 7 - REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

“We Love Him Because...?”

The way you answer this seemingly simple question gives great insight into your hope of justification before the true and living God. Have you ever seriously considered your **MOTIVE**, (the inner drive or reason), for all the religious activities you do (prayer, church attendance, giving, evangelizing, holy living, etc)? I can speak from personal experience concerning this life or death issue. When I was in a state of lostness, I was actively involved in false, self-righteous, works religion, and went to great lengths to pray, to give at least a tithe, and to attend every activity that went on at the church. Now as I look back on these things, with eyes enlightened to the truth of justification fully accomplished for me at Calvary, I know that true righteousness is based solely on Christ's perfect obedience and substitutionary sacrifice as my Representative. I see that my motive made all my effort and energy to be nothing more than “*fruit unto death*.” *“For when we were in the flesh (in a state of lostness), the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.”* **(Rom.7:5)** I can remember thinking that if I didn't give enough; God was going to take it from me somehow, **SO I'D GIVE**. If I missed church, I was quite certain God would punish me for it, **SO I WOULD ATTEND**.. Everything I did was either from a mercenary or a legal motive. It was done either to earn or merit some reward, or it to keep God from punishing me.

MOTIVE IS EVERYTHING when it comes to the true obedience of a justified sinner. Think about Saul of Tarsus. What religious activities did he perform while in a state of lostness? “*Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*” **(Phil.3:5:6)** After God regenerated and converted him, **what did he say of these things that he once thought so important?** He referred to them as “*LOSS*” and “*DUNG*.” Read **Phil.3:7-10**. Before Paul's conversion, don't you think he prayed, gave, studied, and sought converts? Yet all of it was an evidence of his natural ignorance of how God could be “*a just God and a Saviour*”. After his regeneration, you can be assured that he still prayed, gave, studied, evangelized, and eventually died for the God of His salvation. What made the difference? **It was his motive**. He no longer did any of these things to save himself, keep himself saved, or to even recommend himself to God. His motive for all obedience was gratitude to God for all that He had already given him through the Lord Jesus Christ's obedience unto death. John wrote: “*We love him, because he first loved us.*” **(I Jn.4:19)** Those whom God has forgiven, whose sins were completely put away at Calvary, do indeed love Him, and seek to obey Him in every area of their lives. What's your motive?

Bro.Richard