

Wednesday Word, Dec. 2, 2015: Gospel Forgiveness

Since the believer's sins have been punished on Christ, we can say with assurance that we are saved. Believers are simply thisforgiven sinners!

But what kinds of sins was Jesus punished for?

Was it for our big sins?

Yes!

What about our little sins?

Yes!

And, what about the sins of omission?

Yes, for those too!

We are forgiven because Christ Jesus was punished in our place and in our stead.

The gospel truth is this, believers are covered with the righteousness of Christ. We are in Christ! We are reckoned not to have done the sins we actually have done. This is beautiful, matchless grace! I hope we never get tired of hearing this good news.

The Bible teaches that there are two kinds of righteousness. The first is the righteousness by which the uninstructed and ignorant attempt to get to heaven. The Bible, however, is ruthlessly scathing in describing this kind of righteousness. It calls it "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). The second kind of righteousness is the imputed righteousness God gives us as a free gift ... the very righteousness of Christ.

Unfortunately, if we are not bathed in the gospel, we continually revert to believing that there is something we can do to get right with God. We are like the Jews of whom Paul wrote, "They are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes. (Romans 10:2-4).

So consider this, by grace, the Lord chose and accepted us. We are not saved by anything we do! Salvation is by grace alone. Don't let anyone rob you of that precious truth.

As Dr. David Dykes says, "If you could burn one single calorie of effort to bring about your salvation, then you could take a tiny part of the credit and boast about your part." Excellent statement! ... But he understates the matter...in actuality, we would take all the credit! The gospel truth is this, salvation is all of God and none of us. Charles Spurgeon expressed it this way: "If there is one stitch in the celestial garment of our righteousness which we are to insert ourselves, then we are lost."

To further grasp this matter of being saved by someone else, we read in Colossians 2:14 that Christ has blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out

of the way, nailing it to his cross.

Some have reasoned that the handwriting of ordinances alludes to the custom of affixing to the cross the charges which earned the criminal the death sentence. Remember how, at our Lord's crucifixion, the charge read, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." That had been His claim. He was the King, the heavenly King, who would rule the earth. To the Jews, this was blasphemy. To the Romans, it stood for insurrection.

Others reason that by the 'handwriting of ordinances' is meant that God took the obligations of Mosaic Law and nailed them to the cross of Christ. By His saving work, the Lord Jesus exposed all systems of works salvation as being fraudulent.

Christ died as a substitute for the people of God. So beware of these grace robbers who tell you that you have something to do to earn heaven.

We are saved by grace alone...we make no contribution.

And that's the Gospel Truth!