

The Wednesday Word, December 9, 2020: The Gospel Truth About Faith (Part 1)

“Faith claims a King,
An all-atoning Priest:
It claims no merit of its own,
But looks for all in Christ.”

“Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God” Romans 5:1

Does God look for faith in a believer and then, upon seeing this faith, declares the believer not guilty? Well if you were to believe what many say about this matter you would think yes, absolutely yes! But this theory is a grim error. The gospel knows nothing of the sort!

Saving faith is not a quality within us. We are saved entirely by a work outside of us. Faith, however, takes a hold of the gospel, and sees that it is perfect, sufficient and finished. Faith sees that our salvation has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus.

Faith acknowledges that all things necessary to make us accepted before God have already been done in the substitutionary work of Christ. It is finished! Faith takes hold of the good news that in our name and on our behalf, Jesus Christ lived, died and rose again.

Faith sees that Jesus as our substitute and representative has met and fulfilled every righteous requirement needed to restore us to God.

Faith sees that the Christ event is sufficient and complete and that nothing whatsoever can be or indeed needs to be added to it.

But we must never think that faith is a quality in us that saves us.

Faith embraces the fact that Jesus Christ alone saves. Faith sees that He is enough.

Since Christ's work for us in salvation is finished, nothing can be added to His accomplishments. Since redemption is secured, salvation is not a matter of Christ plus faith. Where so many depart from the gospel is that they believe their faith makes them accepted to God. But faith in no way makes us accepted to the Father. We are only accepted in the acceptable One, Jesus Christ.

I like Spurgeon in his Morning and Evening, June 28th, Reading' He says,
'It is not your hold of Christ that saves you ... it is Christ. It is not your joy in Christ that saves you ... it is Christ. It is not even faith in Christ, though that is the instrument ... it is Christ's blood and merits which saves. Do not look to your hope, but to Christ, the source of your hope.

Amen brother Spurgeon! It is vital that we do not look to our faith to save, but to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

We must be very clear about this ... it's worth repeating ... although we are saved through faith,

faith is not our saviour. Our Saviour is Jesus Christ alone and our salvation is in Him alone! He is the object of our faith. He alone is the Redeemer. What faith does is to take a hold of Jesus and His accomplishments and make them our own.

Faith grasps that our righteousness is not in ourselves but rather outside of us in Christ Jesus. But faith does not bring salvation into existence nor does it produce the righteousness by which God justifies us. What faith does, however, is to take something already in existence and enables us to reckon it as our own! (*to be continued*).

And that's the Gospel Truth!