

The Wednesday Word, November 16, 2016: Gospel Peace

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, (Colossians 1:20 a)

The blood of Christ gives us a profound insight into God's estimation of sin. God, being the God of justice, will by no means clear the guilty (Exodus 34:7). Sin has earned an awful debt, and all debts must be paid. We ought not to fool ourselves into thinking that God is some easy going, doddering, old grandfather who doesn't notice sin. He notices and has done so from the beginning. And because He saw our sin, the Lamb of God went to the cross with this scripture in mind, "It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11). Because Christ poured out His blood, peace has now been established between God and us. Indeed, there is only one foundation for peace, and that is the blood of Jesus. To enjoy this peace, therefore, our daily spiritual occupation is to, "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). He is the one who has paid for and taken away our sin.

In Luke 15:2 we are told, "This man (Jesus) receives sinners." That means that, when we come to Christ our mercy seat, we are fully accepted, and the free gift of eternal life is ours. But you say, I don't feel that I have a right to go to Him, my sin 's too big! Well, it's your word against His. He says to come to Him, and he knows what He is talking about.

Old Tom Farrell, a Scottish blacksmith, had lived a God-defying life. But, in His mercy, the Lord brought him to trust in Christ alone. Some years later, he was on his death bed, and his wife asked him if he were scared to die. He looked at her, smiled and then said, "What would I be afraid of? I'm going to be with the Man who died for me." Old Tom knew that peace had been made by the blood.

God's grace is demonstrated to us through the shed blood of our substitute. In the Old Testament, the High Priest came to the Mercy Seat with the blood. In bringing the blood, he was confessing that both he and the people were sinners. When he came with the blood, he found God waiting to be gracious. Was God gracious because the High Priest confessed everyone's sin? No! God's graciousness flowed because the demands of His justice had been met by the blood of a substitute. Because of the blood, there never was a flash of angry lightning there. Because of the blood, there never was one faint rumble of wrathful thunder there. Because of the blood, God looked and seemed to say, "I am well pleased with the blood of this substitute because it points towards the blood of my Son. Because of My Son, I will spare sinners."

Not only did God gaze upon the blood, but the High Priest, as representative of the people, also fixed his eye on the same blood that lay on the mercy-seat. As he stood gazing on the blood, it was as if he said, "Lord, there is my death and the people's death for each sin; there is my wrath offering; there is your law's demand."

And this is the position of all believers. Our eye is on Jesus, the Christ who was crucified. Our hearts believe that because of the blood, God has given us eternal life (1 John 5:11). Because of the blood, our mouths boldly confess, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes" (Romans 10:4). In other words, the believer is free from having to present His strenuous efforts at law-keeping as the method of gaining favour with God. The law, as a means of saving righteousness, is now obsolete. There is no peace, therefore, available to the man who tries to establish his righteousness other than by the doing, dying and rising again of Christ.

I hear the words of love,

I gaze upon the blood,
I see the mighty sacrifice,
And I have peace with God.

And that's the Gospel Truth!