

Planting the Gospel into our Hearts and Minds

Calvary assures us that the wrath which should have justly consumed us has fallen upon our substitute. (1 Thessalonians 1:10). Faith in Christ alone, therefore, rescues us from the bondage of having to perform to gain God's pleasure. In Christ alone, faith sees the smile of the Father upon us.

Though faith is not our righteousness, it fastens us to the righteousness of Christ and sees that Christ's righteousness makes it safe for us to appear in heaven. Indeed, the only safe way to heaven is to trust in the doing, dying and rising again of Christ. Faith grasps that our acceptance before God is in Christ alone and not in our faith. Faith in faith saves no one. Gospel faith knows this!

Furthermore, faith grasps that our future standing in the ages to come depends, not upon anything in us, but upon the unchanging righteousness of Christ ... a righteousness outside ourselves. When we are not grounded in the gospel, however, we quickly make the mistake of looking within ourselves to determine whether or not we have certain feelings. Unfortunately, if we find what we judge to be the correct emotions, we then content ourselves and think our faith is healthy and that we are thus eternity bound. Conversely, alarm bells ring when we can't discover those feelings because we then assume that our destiny is in doubt. When we live like this, we are unsettled and confused. We have not yet understood that anything subjective, whether it is the work of the Spirit in us or our feelings and experiences, can ever qualify as the object of our faith. They are not the gospel! Acquittal before God comes only through the person and work of the Lord Jesus. He alone is the sinner's plea for, "He that believeth on Him is not condemned." (John 3:18).

To further plant the gospel in our hearts, it is an excellent habit to memorize gospel texts. In that way, at any time of the day or night we will be able to meditate on our safety in Christ. Take, for example, the following scriptures,

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:19.

"Who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification."
Romans 4:25.

"God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."
1 Thessalonians 5:9-10.

"By the which will we are sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
Hebrews 10:10.

"For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."
Romans 5:6.

“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8.

“It is Christ that died, yes rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”
Romans 8:34.

“Who gave Himself for our sins.”
Galatians 1:4.

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.”
Galatians 3:13.

“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:7.

“Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.” Hebrews 9:28.

“Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered *outside* the gate.”
Hebrews 13:12.

“Who his own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree.” 1 Peter 2:24.

“Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God.” 1 Peter 3:18.

“Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” Revelation 1:5.

“I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.”
Revelation 1:18.

“Thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood.”
Revelation 5:9.

These gospel truths come from God, and God cannot lie! (Titus 1:2). They are from the One whose word “*shall stand forever*”(Isaiah 40:8). May we bury these powerful Gospel Truths deep in our minds and hearts.

Here is their summary!

God came to earth. He assumed a sinless human nature. He was born in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, born without sin and lived a sinless life on our behalf. As a man, He obeyed God’s requirements for us and now we are treated, not merely just as if we’d never sinned but also “just as if we’d always obeyed.”

We are safe!

Jesus died! When He died, Jesus, among other things, paid for our debt and endured our penalty; it was the death of deaths! He became our penal substitute being punished instead of us. He became our surety as He took full responsibility for us. He exhausted the wrath of God against us. He suffered on the cross charged with our sin and by his very presence at Calvary acknowledged our sin to be His. In His death, He took away our sins. He blotted them out and destroyed all legal claims that stood against us.

We are safe!

Jesus was buried. This is proof that His death was a real death. If He hadn 't been dead, the Roman authorities would not have permitted His burial. If He had not been dead, He wouldn't have needed a tomb. The Roman soldiers were veterans of foreign wars: they knew a dead man when they saw one. But Jesus rose again from out of the dead. This was the Father's declaration that He, the righteous Judge, is satisfied with the payment, no less than with the One who made it.

Could there be better news for us than this? Our risen Lord has now ascended to the place of cosmic authority where He ever lives to make intercession for us.

The Lord God is fully satisfied with these facts. We have the privilege by meditation and memorisation to hide these truths in our hearts.

We are safe!