

The Wednesday Word, January 7, 2026: In Us and For Us!  
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If ever we are to be established in the gospel, we must learn not to confuse the work of God for us with the work of God in us!

The work of God for us is the work through Christ Jesus by which God has accomplished, completed and perfected our redemption (Romans 3:25-26). It is this magnificent work which is the object of our faith. This work is finished.

The second great work is the work of God in us (Philippians 2:13). This is the continuing, unfinished work of God's Spirit. It is sad to observe the endless mischief that has been unleashed on poorly taught Christians who confuse these two works. They fail to grasp that it is Christ's finished work for us which has secured our acquittal. They seem painfully unaware that no amount of the "moving of the Spirit" in our experience can improve upon Christ's experience on our behalf! Looking at our experience and resting on it as being our acceptance before the Father is a terrible mistake.

James Buchanan tells us, *"There is, perhaps, no more subtle or plausible error, on the subject of Justification, than that which makes it to rest on the indwelling presence, and the gracious work, of the Holy Spirit in the heart."*

Yet there are many who insist that they have had a thrilling experience with the Spirit and thus they tell us that because of their experience they now know that they have been accepted by God.

However, to put confidence and hope of heaven in the fact that something has happened within us is to rest on a quagmire of sinking sand. It is a wretched error. Our right standing with God is in Christ alone. This exalted Christ who, at this exact moment, is applying the benefits of His redemption to us is our resting place. This means the work of the Spirit, vital though it is, can never be our saving righteousness. Saving faith causes us to look outside ourselves to the Saviour who is already enthroned in cosmic authority and majesty.

Horatius Bonar says, and I paraphrase, "Faith, is the great identifier since it identifies us with the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is the great grasper in that it grasps all that is in the Lord Jesus Christ! Faith is the great accepter in that it accepts the righteousness of Christ as the only hope of salvation." It is Christ and His work for us, done on our behalf, that saves us. Faith understands this.

Concerning faith, let me again paraphrase Bonar: he says, "Faith is really nothing but our consenting to be saved by someone else." Hallelujah!

As the Spirit works faith into our hearts, we receive the glorious truth of the work done for us, apart from and outside of us 2000 years ago. The Spirit, generates faith under the hearing of the Gospel and causes us to look to the all-sufficiency of Jesus and His finished work, outside of us, to save us.

Faith sees that God is just, and yet the justifier of all those who believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:26).

Faith sees that the penalty of sin has been taken away. (1 John 8-10).

Faith sees that the curse of the broken law has been removed. (Galatians 3:13).

Faith sees that justice is satisfied. (John 19:30).

Faith sees that Satan is defeated. (Colossians 2:15).

It is no wonder then that gospel purposed believers are thrilled with the Lord Jesus. We delight in Him for He alone is our hope and salvation. Faith has freed us from the bondage of having to look to our experience or our performance to find peace with God. Faith has taught us that all our hope is in Christ and His finished work, not in the work He is doing within us by His Spirit.

And that's the Gospel Truth!