

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

www.btwol.com

'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

newlife@btwol.com

Issue: 1175

February 2017

Will You Take the Challenge?

WHICH PERSON DESCRIBES YOU?

While God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, was on the earth He often instructed the people by means of parables. The following account is found in Luke 18:9-14:

*And He Jesus spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a **Pharisee**, and the other a **publican** (Tax Collector).*

THE PHARISEE

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

THE TAX COLLECTOR

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man (Publican) went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Ask yourself, am I like the Pharisee or like the publican? Do I trust in my own righteousness? Do I compare myself with others? Do I think that this gives me a good chance of reaching heaven?

If so, be warned by the words of the Lord Jesus, for He spoke this parable "unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous."

His desire was that such persons should be warned of the mistake and danger of their attitude. He sought to warn them that God does not justify men on the basis of good works, but rather justifies men who realize their sinfulness and look to Him in faith for mercy.

This truth is expressed plainly in the words of Romans 4:5:

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

The publican did not offer any reason to God as to why God should justify him—he simply believed "on Him that justifieth the ungodly." Titus 3:5 says,

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."

God can freely justify sinners because He has delivered His Son to the cross to die and has raised Him from the dead. The death of Christ satisfies God on behalf of every sinner who believes on Christ).

Justification: Declared righteous by God

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(Romans 3:24-26)

But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Romans 4:24,25



The resurrection of Christ is the divine declaration and proof of the complete justification of the one who believes in Him.

Had Christ not risen, it would mean the Payment for our sins by His death was not enough to satisfy a holy God.

But He is risen! It was enough! The believer now has settled peace because He who was delivered to put away our offenses now lives forevermore.



Missing the Mark

Thomas Lamb Airways, later re-named Lambair, was founded by Tom Lamb in 1934. It was created to quickly transport fish from The Pas in Northern Canada to where it could reach the USA markets. Tom and his six sons moved trappers and fur, fishermen and fish, miners and mining equipment as well as supporting isolated communities of Northern Canada. Their motto was, "Do not ask where we fly, tell us where you want to go".

On November 13, 1979, a Lambair flight took off from Churchill heading for Chesterfield Inlet. On board this plane was a flight crew of three as well as cargo of one snowmobile and many cases of soft drinks for the Arctic Co-op. Reportedly the plane was overloaded. Shortly into the flight, one of the two engines experienced trouble, forcing the crew to descend and turn back to the Churchill airport. Just one-quarter of a mile short of the runway, a wing clipped a power pole causing a crash landing on the unforgiving rocks. Thankfully, although two of the crew were seriously injured, no one was killed in the accident. The wreckage of this plane can still be found on the scenic route along the Hudson Bay in Churchill, Manitoba. This particular plane had been flying since 1945. Although it was only one-quarter of a mile from the runway, the plane still missed the mark. It did not make it to a safe haven. Perhaps you have been 'flying' for many years, comfortable with life. Or maybe, like many of us, you are laden with the baggage of life.

Although we may try to prepare ourselves for Heaven, there is nothing we can do in ourselves, to get rid of our own cargo of sin.

The good news is that the work has been done for us! The Lord Jesus Christ, the spotless Son of God, took our sin and paid the price for it on the cross of Calvary.

The Lord Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Because He loves us, He willingly took our place so that we can be made right with God. When we come to Him, confessing our sins and trusting Him, we can be sure of our place in Heaven. We will not miss the mark! *Via Magazine*



**JUSTIFIED
BY HIS
GRACE**

'...the HAND by which the privilege of peace is received - faith'.

I ask the special attention of all to this part of our subject. There is scarcely any point in Christianity so important as the means by which Christ, justification, and peace, become the property of a man's soul. ...Let us endeavour to lay hold firmly on the truth.

The means by which a man obtains an interest in Christ and all His benefits is simple faith.

There is but one thing needful in order to be justified by His blood, and have peace with God. That one thing is to believe on Him. This is the peculiar mark of a true Christian. He believes on the Lord Jesus for his salvation.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved." "Whoever believes in Him shall not perish—but have eternal life."

(Acts 16:31; John 3:16.)

Without this faith, it is impossible to be saved.

A man may be –

- ✓ Moral
- ✓ Amiable
- ✓ good-natured
- ✓ respectable.

But if he does not believe on Christ, he has –

- ✗ no pardon,
- ✗ no justification,
- ✗ no title to heaven.

"He who believes not, is condemned already."

"He who believes not the Son shall not see life—but the wrath of God abides on him."

"He who believes not, shall be damned."

(John 3:18, 36; Mark 16:16.)

Beside this faith nothing whatever is needed for a man's justification.

Beyond doubt, repentance, holiness, love, humility, prayerfulness—will always be seen in the justified man. But they do not in the smallest degree justify him in the sight of God. Nothing joins a man to Christ—nothing justifies—but simple faith.

"To him who works not—but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

"We conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." (Rom. 4:5; 3:28.)

Having this faith, a man is at once completely justified.

His sins are at once removed. His iniquities are at once put away. The very hour that he believes he is reckoned by God entirely pardoned, forgiven, and a righteous man. His justification is not a future privilege, to be obtained after a long time and great pains. It is an immediate present possession. Jesus says, "He who believes on Me has everlasting life." Paul says, "By Him all who believe are justified from all things." (John 6:47; Acts 13:39.)



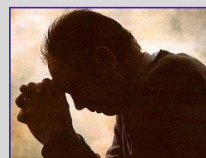
Believe and Live

When the Saviour said "'Tis finished,"
Everything was fully done;
Done as God himself would have it --
Christ the victory had won.
Vain and futile the endeavour
To improve or add thereto;
God's free grace is thus commended--
To "believe," and not "to do."

All the *doing* is completed,
Now 'tis "look, believe and live:"
None can purchase his salvation,
Life's a gift that God must give;
Grace, through righteousness, is reigning,
Not of works lest man should boast:
Man must take the mercy freely,
Or eternally be lost.

Albert Midlane

POINT TO PONDER



Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

Bringing the Word of Life,
PO Box 12,
Carrickfergus,
Northern Ireland.
BT38 7YD.

www.btwol.com

newlife@btwol.com