

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

August 13th

HOW GOD MADE US RIGHTEOUS

* Our standing with God is on the ground of faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, God laid upon Jesus our iniquities. 2 Cor. 5:21, "Him who knew no sin God made to be sin on our behalf." Jesus was more than a sin offering. He was actually made sin with our sins. He was made unrighteous with our unrighteousness. As our Sin Substitute, bearing our sins and bearing us, He went to the place of suffering after He left His body.

He stayed there until every claim of Justice against us had been satisfied. He was our Substitute, taking our place, being made sin with our sin. He went to the prison to which sinners were sentenced and suffered until everything against us had been met. It was Deity suffering for humanity, and being Deity He could pay the penalty.

When the Supreme Court of the Universe declared that what God had wrought in Christ was sufficient, that His sufferings were adequate and met every demand of Justice, He declared that Jesus was justified or made Righteous. Rom. 4:25. In 1 Tim. 3:16 Paul says that He was "justified in the spirit." and in 1 Pet. 3:18 we read that He was "made alive in the spirit." He was born out of death, so that He is called again and again, "the first born from among the dead."

God laid our sin upon Him. He was made to be sin, made to suffer in our stead. When He had met the demands of Justice, death could hold Him no longer. He was "declared righteous." He was "made alive". He became the "firstborn from the dead"-the Head of a New Creation. Col. 1:18. When we believe in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, God is able to declare us righteous on the ground of what Jesus did. There are two phases to this Righteousness.

First, God declares us righteous; and second, we are made New Creations.

We become partakers of the Divine Nature, so that we are righteous by nature and righteous by faith. Now we can understand 2 Cor. 5:21, "Him who knew no sin God made to be sin on our behalf." Why? "That we might become the righteousness of God in him."

As surely as God made Jesus sin, God made us righteous the moment we accepted Him.

"Being justified freely by his grace (or, being made righteous freely by his grace) through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." He declares that we were made righteous freely by His grace through the redemption that was in Christ Jesus. He did this "for the showing, I say, of his righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime, in the forbearance of God."

What does lie mean by that? From the time Adam fell until Jesus hung on the Cross, God had been covering sin with the blood of bulls and goats. Lev. 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls." The word "atonement" means "to cover". It is never used in connection with the blood of Christ because the blood of Christ does not cover-it cleanses!

We do not need to be covered. Under the Law, sin was not put away. It was not cleansed. It was only covered by the blood of bulls and goats. Now by faith we can take Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. When we do that we become the Righteousness of God in Him. Being made righteous by His grace, we have peace right now with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having been made righteous, having been declared righteous by the Supreme Court of the Universe, having had this fellowship restored that had been broken through the ages, the peace of God which passeth all understanding floods our beings. Rom. 5:1.

Now we can stand in His presence without any Sin-Consciousness, without any fear, because "as He is, so are we in this world."

He is righteous. He Himself has declared us righteous and made us righteous. This is the foundation on which faith grows. When we know this as the Word of God teaches it, we will step into the Father's presence without any challenge or question in our minds.

We know that there is therefore now no condemnation to us, because we are in Christ Jesus.