

The Comforter

Isaiah 40:1: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people..."

Volume 5, Issue 3

May-June 2019

Believeth Unto Righteousness

Elder Steve Woods

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10

First let us review what Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, wrote earlier in this book:

1. "...by the obedience of **one** shall many be made righteous." Rom 5:19, our eternal righteousness, our eternal destination is secured by the obedience of one, Jesus Christ. (Heb 1:3, 10:14, 2 Cor 5:21)

2. These same folks under consideration are embraced in the covenant of grace (Rom 9:1-4) and are secured in the love of Christ (Rom 8:35-39), he speaks of those same ones beginning chapter 9, 10 and chapter 11 where he says "... God hath not cast away his people **which he foreknew**..." and in chapter 8, those he foreknew, them he did predestinate...and whom he predestinated, them he also called... and whom he called, them he also justified...and whom he justified, them he also glorified... they are safe in the love of God (whether they know it, confess it or believe it, or not) and do not need saved from hell for they have already been. So then, the confession of the mouth and belief in the heart cannot be the causative agent in their

eternal salvation, then thus being so their salvation by confession is from something else, from what are they saved by mouth confession?

3. Romans 5:9-11 *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

- In this segment, Paul affirms the salvation from wrath (hellfire and damnation) is accomplished, it is already done, Jesus did it on the cross, he did it by himself, he did it alone, he did not need or request your help, believing or permission. *Being now justified by his blood*, that means the just are justified by his blood, that also means the just are not justified in the sight of God by their believing or accepting. God is the justifier, you are not, your faith is not, your faith is merely a gift from the one who justified you. We were reconciled, when we were enemies, not when we were agreeable or desiring it but when we were enemies (Rom 5:8, 8:7-8) and we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, plus nothing. God reconciled us. He did not make us "reconcilable" by the death of his Son, he reconciled us. Being reconciled (as we are reconciled) we shall be saved (that is, in the future there is a certain

event) by his life. Jesus said "because I live ye shall live also" (Not, because ye believe). Paul said "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29 " - he is the firstborn from the dead, we shall all be saved from these vile bodies either from death or at the moment of his return if we are alive and remain unto the coming of the LORD and either way there is a future event which will be our salvation from these vile, corruptible bodies (Romans 13:11... *for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*)

The evidence is overwhelming, Jesus came to save all that the Father gave him (1 John 4:14) not to offer salvation but to be a Savior, not to try to save) and he needs nothing from us, neither our help, permission, confession or belief in order to save us to eternal life from eternal woe and misery:

John 6:37-39 (KJV) All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

John 6:44-45 (KJV) No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

This should suffice to show that the salvation spoken of in Romans 10:10 is not an eternal salvation ... *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the*

precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot :1 Peter 1:18-19 - and you very well know that your mouth is a corruptible thing and your heart is corruptible prior to the new birth: Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? - Only the Almighty can take out your old stony heart and put in a heart that is tender soft and pure, the heart you have prior to being born again could never produce a righteous result - Romans 8:7-8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. and again 1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

So then, from what is a man saved if he will believe and confess the Lord Jesus and that God hath raised him from the dead?

He will be saved first of all from ignorance in worship. Instead of trying to establish his own righteousness (by the works of the law), he will be accepting and believing his righteousness comes from the one and only holy one the righteous one the Lord, Jesus Christ. And his confidence in the righteousness of Christ will save him from the fear of failure in his own righteousness. His trust in Christ's righteousness will enable him to enter into divine worship service faithfully, not trusting in his own but trusting alone in the righteousness of the Holy One, from whom is righteousness imputed to us.

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

He will be saved from being ashamed.

Are you born again and know that your Savior saved you but you still have not submitted to water baptism, still have not believed in your heart AND confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead and I want to follow him in water baptism and show with my mouth the belief in my heart that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead so bury me in the watery grave and I will come forth from the water like Jesus came up from the grave and I will arise to newness of life and serve my Lord in his church.

If you have not done so, are you ashamed that you have not confessed your Lord Jesus? If you will do this you will be saved from being ashamed, be ashamed no more!

Jairus

Elder Tom Griffin

There are many truths about the Biblical subject of faith that are important to be understood; from where it comes? when it is given? by whom it is given? who is its object? etc. I trust the reader to research these very important questions to prove that faith comes from God, is applied in regeneration by God Himself, Who is also its object. Our intent is not to lay these foundations but rather to go on unto the value and utility of God given

faith in the lives of His people. We will do so by examining the account of a man named Jairus, an unnamed woman and their encounters with the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ Himself.

Found in Matthew Chapter 9, Mark Chapter 5 and Luke Chapter 8, this account records how Jesus exposed the faith of one to build up the faith of another. By examining all three accounts, we can, by God's grace, construct a complete picture of the events of the day and examine the wisdom and compassion of Jesus in dealing with His subjects.

The account opens with a ruler of the synagogue, namely Jairus, approaching our Savior desperate over the grave illness of his twelve year old and only daughter. Piecing the accounts together we can deduce that while she was alive when he left to seek Jesus, Jairus understood that his daughter's sickness was so grave that she might die before he reached the Great Physician to request His assistance. Matthew records for us that Jairus believed that, even if he was not able to reach the Master before her death, Jesus was able to raise her even from death. Mark records for us that Jairus, "...besought him greatly..." indicating that there was a great sense of urgency in his request.

Upon hearing Jairus' request, Jesus began to make His way to Jairus' house but as He went we read that the people "thronged" Him. Anyone who has ever been in a "throng" of people knows how difficult it can be to move along. Since Jesus was the focal point of the "throng", we can envision a picture of slow traveling that would have no doubt been of concern to this loving father who was so anxious to see his "little daughter" returned to health.

At this point in the account, we are introduced to a new character and a *seemingly* unrelated story line. Though unnamed, we quickly learn a few things about this new character. She was sick with an issue of blood and had been for twelve years; incidentally, the same

amount of time Jairus' daughter had been alive. She had been to many physicians, suffered many things at their hands, paid them everything that she had but had not gotten any better. In fact, she had actually gotten worse. However, on this day, at this moment she believed that if she could only touch the hem of Christ's garment, she would be whole again. As she made her way through the throng of people, she came up behind Jesus and managed to touch the border of His garment and we read in Luke's account that "immediately her issue of blood was stanch'd". She was healed. Mark records for us that not only was she healed but she knew that she was healed.

Jesus knew that "virtue" had gone out of Him when the woman touched His garment, and He stopped and turned around in the press and inquired of His disciples, "Who touched me?" The disciples were incredulous that being in such an urgent circumstance He would ask such a question since in their view so many in the throng of people were physically touching Him. We must, however, realize that the Creator of the universe doesn't need to have a sense of urgency because there is no situation in which He is ever too late. Jesus stopped and took the time to point out the woman who had touched Him and then spoke to her saying, "Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole..." While we can appreciate the comfort generated by Jesus' kind words to the woman, from a natural perspective, why would he do this? Jairus was in a hurry to get to his house, the woman was healed, she knew she was healed, Jesus knew she was healed; why take the precious time to stop and put her on public display? Luke's account even tells us that the woman was hiding and not desirous of drawing attention to herself. Could it be that Jesus knew that Jairus' faith was about to be tried and that he would benefit from this public display of faith? Let's continue with the account and see.

Mark and Luke both record that "while He yet spake" to the woman, there came one from Jairus' house with the somber news that his daughter was dead. Jairus' faith, that had been so strong at the outset, was now put to the test. Did he really believe that Jesus could raise her from the dead? The messenger even told Jairus not to trouble the Master any further. But Jairus had just witnessed a miracle and heard Jesus credit the woman's faith with being instrumental in making her whole and now Jesus says to him, "Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole." With the example of the woman who touched Jesus' garment fresh on his mind, Jairus ignored the messenger's advice and led on to his where his daughter lay.

Upon arrival at the house, Jesus informed those that were in a tumult and mourning the death of the young woman that she was not dead but only asleep. But they mocked Jesus because, as Luke tells us, they knew she was dead. However, to Jesus, Who can call from death to life, death is merely sleep. He then put all out of the house except Peter, James, John, Jairus and his wife who all went in with Jesus to the place where the *sleeping* girl lay. Jesus then said to her, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise." and the girl arose and walked around and Jesus commanded that they give her something to eat. Jairus' faith was tried mightily but by God's grace and providence proven to be strong and effective.

Bible readers can learn several things from this account. For instance, like Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood, we should approach God through Jesus name in faith knowing that He is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all we could ask or think. Like Jairus, we should be patient knowing that God's timing is *always* perfect and not be discouraged when bad news comes. We also learn that, while mocking the idea that the Lord can help won't hinder His ability to help, it can hinder us from being witnesses of great miracles like those that

were put out of the house while Jesus raised the girl. Lastly, we should consider that others constantly observe our behavior and perhaps, like the woman with the issue, God has allowed us to be put in a situation where other's might see our confidence in Him and glorify Him and be strengthened in their own faith. Knowing this let us heed the word of Jesus and, "Be not afraid, only believe.

Let Him Kiss Me With Kisses

Elder Ronnie Loudermilk

Song of Solomon 1:2, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine."

The Song of Solomon is love story about a King and his precious Shulamite. The words of these eight chapters in God's Holy Word records him telling of her beauty and his love for her. It also records her words and how much she loved and adored her "chiefest among ten thousand."

In our study verse, we read how the Shulamite longed to experience her beloved's love and care. When she says, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth" she is longing for him to show his love for her. A simple touch of his lips against her cheek would suffice to give her assurance that his love for her was strong and enduring.

When the writer meditates upon these words, there is an ease for his mind to think about the love the Lord has for His children. The Bible illustrates that love and relationship as a husband and wife (Ephesians 5:25; John 3:29). And just as the Shulamite longed to be assured of Solomon's love, so the children of God are comforted when the Lord manifests His great love for them and to them.

Throughout scripture, we read of the times the greater than Solomon showed His great, mighty and unending love for His precious family. In the days of Joshua, the great I AM caused the sun to stand still (Joshua 10:10). In the days of Daniel, we read about the time the Lord "shut the lions' mouths" (Daniel 6:22). In Matthew 2:2, after seeing "his star in the east", the wise men came from afar to see the Lord. Oh, how they must have travelled with excitement after the Lord showed them the star. Their daily tasks became less of a focus as their minds were consumed with just being near Jesus Christ. And as I ponder upon these amazing experiences of the children of God throughout the generations, I think about how Solomon's Shulamite must have thought the world stood still when he looked her in the eyes; I'm sure her mouth was closed and she was at a loss for words when in his presence; I'm confident the daily paths of her life became less important as her longing desire to be close to him must have burned in her heart. Maybe the reader can recall a similar experience when you spent time with what would be your future husband/wife. I can recall feeling like time stopped when Sis Jennifer looked at me with her pretty blue eyes; I remember quite well how the words of my mouth failed me in nervousness, as I listened to her talk; and I remember forgetting about so much in the world as I just wanted to be close to her. But my experience with Sis Jennifer, no matter how much I treasure it in my heart, pales in comparison to the Lord and His precious bride (the family of God).

Dear child of grace, has the Lord done great things for you in your life? Can you think back on days and times when you felt the Lord, in His providential love and care, did something for you? What happened? The truth? He kissed you with the kisses of His mouth. That's not when the Lord began to love you (the Lord loved you before the foundation of the world and manifested His love for you in a mighty

way by giving His life for you on the cross, Ephesians 1:4; Romans 5:8). Yet, here in this temporal world, the Lord shows His love for you and every time He does, it should cause us to long for more time and fellowship with Him. "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth." Amen!

Let Us Not Forget To Be Thankful

Elder Ronnie Loudermilk

1 Samuel 1:8, "Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepst thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?"

In 1 Samuel chapter one we find a precious sister named Hannah who desired to have a child. According to 1 Samuel 1:5 "the LORD had shut up her womb" and she was barren. Hannah, in her longing desire to have a son, "was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept" (1 Sam 2:10). Eli, the priest of the Lord in Israel, saw her grief and thought she was drunk with wine when he witnessed her lips moving, without the sound of her voice, in prayer. Hannah truly believed that God was able to help her in her longing desires. Her prayers were those in faith, believing in Him who does those things which are impossible with man.

In our study verse, we find Hannah's husband conversing with his precious wife. Elkanah loved Hannah and in 1 Samuel 1:5 we read about his love for her and all that he gave to her to show it. I'm sure that Hannah was thankful for all that Elkanah did for her, but Elkanah's words reveal his feeling neglected for his efforts to give happiness to his wife. It seems that Hannah, in her prayer and longing desires, forgot to show her thankfulness for what she had.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the lesson of this portion of scripture finds an amazing application to all the children of God throughout the generations. I'm very happy and am blessed to know about the Lord who hears the prayers of His precious children. The Lord, in his amazing mercy, hears and answers the pleads of those He loves. Yet in our prayers, how many times do we forget to be thankful and show our thankfulness for all that He has done for us. Every child of promise should be encouraged to call unto Him Who loves them with an unchangeable love, yet at the same time we should always be thankful for His rich blessings which we have experienced. I'm often reminded of a verse found in Philippians 4:6 which reads, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Amen!

Announcement

Des Moines River Primitive Baptist Church near Eldon, Iowa, invite you to our annual meeting August 10 and 11, 2019. Please note change in weekend from past years. Services begin Saturday at 10:00 a.m., morning and afternoon services, evening hymn singing with lunch and supper provided. Sunday service at 10:00 a.m., concludes after lunch. The Lord willing, Elder Dillon Thurman from Missouri is to be with us. For more information contact:

Elder Clyde Farmer-----563-742-0357

Brother Roger Fligg 515-276-1654

The Comforter is published six times a year at a cost of \$10 annually. You can also get an email version sent to you by emailing me at rlmyers33@yahoo.com