

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

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The Divine Standard

C.H. Mackintosh

The Christian is one who is not only sheltered from judgment by the Blood of the Lamb, not only delivered from the power of all his enemies by the death of the Lord Jesus, but is also associated with Him where He now is, at the right hand of the Father; he is passed out of death in resurrection and ascension, and is blessed with all spiritual blessings, in the heavenlies, in Christ.

The believer is thus a heavenly man, and, as such, is called to walk in this lost world in all the varied relationships and responsibilities in which the good hand of the Father has placed him. He is not a monk, or an ascetic, or a man who lives in the clouds, fit neither for earth or heaven. He is not one who lives in a dreamy, misty, impractical -region; but, on the contrary, one whose happy privilege it is, from day to day, to reflect, amid the scenes and circumstances of earth, the graces and virtues of the Lord Jesus, with whom, through infinite grace, and on the solid ground of accomplished redemption, he is linked in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The believer is one whose sins are forgiven, who possesses eternal life, and knows it; in whom the Holy Spirit dwells; who is accepted in and associated with the risen and glorified Lord Jesus Christ. He has broken with the world, has died to sin and the law, and finds his object and delight, and his spiritual sustenance, in the One who

loved him and gave Himself for him, and for whose coming he waits every day of his life.

This is the New Testament description of a Christian. How immensely it differs from the ordinary type of Christian profession around us we need not say. But let the reader measure himself by the divine standard, and see wherein he comes short; for of this he may rest assured, that there is no reason whatsoever, so far as the love of the Father, or the work of the Son, or the testimony of the Spirit, are concerned, why he should not be in the full enjoyment of all the rich and rare spiritual blessings which appertain to the true Christian position. Dark unbelief, fed by legality, bad teaching, and spurious religiousness, rob many of the Father's dear children of their proper place and portion. And not only so, but, from want of a thorough break with the world, many are sadly hindered from the clear perception and the full realization of their position and privileges as heavenly men.

We must learn what true Christianity is from the pages of the New Testament, and, having learned it there, judge ourselves by its heavenly light. In this way, while we shall ever have to confess and mourn our shortcomings, our hearts shall ever, more and more, be filled with praise to Him whose infinite grace has brought us into such a glorious position, in union and fellowship with His own Son - a position, blessed by God, in nowise dependent upon our personal state, but which, if really apprehended, must exert a powerful influence upon our entire course, conduct, and character.

Get The Facts!

H.F. Witherby

The "weakness and uselessness " (Heb. 7:18) of the principles of the law are apparent when the power of God in grace is before us. The law says in effect, "This do, and thou shalt live" (Lu. 10:28) — it requires human obedience as a condition to obtaining life; but the Gospel of God brings in life through divine righteousness already magnified by what has been done by the Savior, who died for us.

The Law appeals to man, as man in relationship with God truly, but none the less to man, as responsible in himself to do good. Grace, on the other hand, flows from God in His mercy to man as he is in his sinfulness (Rom. 5:8). The law commands man to do that which, while in his helpless state, he can never do. The grace of God bestows on man, when helpless, a new life in Christ Jesus. The law commands man to reach up to blessing; grace brings blessing down to man where he is.

Hence the force of these words, "Moses My servant is dead" (indicating how spiritual blessings are all of grace), must be kept before the heart if we would rise and follow our Joshua, i.e., Jesus, the Lord risen from the dead, and thus lay hold of our heavenly blessings. All that man is in himself and of his own strength must be out of sight when the heavenly places are in view.

Let us enquire at this point, where, as a matter of faith, are we? Where does our faith apprehend we stand as viewed by our Father? No man can have faith for another; therefore, the question is a searching one. Scripture says, "Made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). We should seek for grace to see ourselves as new creations, by faith, as and where our Father actually sees us in His Son. He does not see His people in the flesh (Rom. 8:9), nor as under the law (Rom. 6:14), but in the Lord Jesus Christ at His own right hand.

Nothing so braces up the spirit as faith in the Father's facts. How am I to get the blessing? is the question often raised by God's dear people. The reply is, Get into God's truth about the blessing. When, through grace, a man believes God's Word respecting the death of the Lord Jesus for sinners, he is secure from the judgment of this world, he is delivered from the wrath to come. He is secure in Him risen from the dead - from the hand of the enemy - Satan. Further, he is seated in the Lord Jesus in the heavenly places, and is graced by the Father in all the beauty of His Beloved One.

We speak of the truths themselves, not of the experiential realization of them. We realize what we believe. Realization is not a stepping-stone to faith. Faith is the foundation of practical realization. Experiential acquaintance. with the truth is not the truth itself, thank God! and the truth of God, not our realization of it, is our confidence and rest. Therefore, as our souls, by the ministry of the indwelling Spirit, enter into the truths of our Father respecting our blessing, we begin to experientially enter into the blessing we seek. Attainment follows faith in the truth. We obtain by faith, not to faith.

IT IS THE SOLDIER

*Chaplin Dennis Edward O'Brien
United States Marine Corps*

"It is the Soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to
demonstrate.

It is the Soldier, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Soldier, who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag."