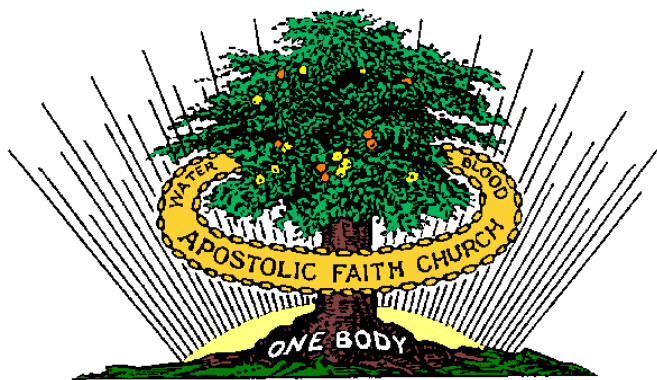


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# Showers of Blessing

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## Righteousness Through Faith (continued) (Article by the late Pastor W. O. Hutchinson.)

**Faith is counted for Righteousness.** Brethren, it is blessed to look at this fair and square in the face; it is simple, and indeed so simple that many people stumble at it. "To him that works not, but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Who is it that justifies the ungodly? Is it not our Lord Jesus Christ? Did not God at the set time bring forth Jesus Christ the Lord with a prepared body, a body prepared to bear your sin and mine? God gave a promise and He fulfilled it, for at the set time Jesus arrived; it was good news to all on the earth, declared so by angels because a Saviour was born. Wonderful name! I love the sound of the word "Saviour."

The ungodly man and ungodly woman, such as feel the burden of sin hanging upon them, and who need a Saviour, have only to look upon Jesus Christ and see their sin laid upon that body that God had prepared *for the purpose of bearing away their sin*; He, the Lord Jesus Christ, bore it away from us: "as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalms 103:12). Tell me how far it is from the east to the west, and I'll tell you how far my sin is removed from me.

Oh, blessed truth, will you believe the promise that Jesus is the justifier of the ungodly? If so, your faith will be counted for righteousness. Justified means to be proclaimed innocent, and we are invited to come to Jesus and accept Him by faith as our justifier. He is innocent, and we are invited to take His innocence to ourselves; His perfection is our perfection, His righteousness is counted to us, if we believe He has taken our sin away, even to us, we helpless sinners, wounded, sick, undone, ruined, lost.

The God of our father Abraham, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given His word that He laid all our sin and iniquities upon Him, and if we receive Him by faith we are counted righteous because of our belief. He it is that sets us free from our guilt. Though we may have been very ungodly, yet Jesus Christ died on Calvary for us, and was raised again for our justification, and He proclaims us innocent when we believe it.

God looks upon the ungodly person when he accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour as freed from sin. I know of no other way of salvation; the Apostle Peter declares there is none. Our guilt was laid upon Jesus, and the Lord put it away behind His back for ever, never to be remembered any more against us. If you will only believe, your faith is counted for righteousness: God accepts you because you accept Jesus Christ. He does not accept you and me because we work works of righteousness.

Works of righteousness are good if they come from faith in Christ (indeed essential, as otherwise our faith is dead), and blessed is the man who is rich towards God in these deeds, but **I must accept Pardon and Righteousness as a gift.**

There is no working for our salvation, but there is a working out of our salvation after

receiving Christ (Philippians 2:12). Oh, sinner, take the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. See, God has put away your sin; accept Him, for He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son of God has not life. The Apostle James declares that Abraham's faith was *shown forth* by his works, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, 23<sup>rd</sup> verse, says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness."

Do you believe God? Do you believe what He has said concerning His Son Jesus Christ, and how YOU are wrapped up in all that He says concerning you in Him? He says, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was laid upon Him." If you want peace, take the Lord Jesus Christ, take this Word of God, and as you believe what He has said concerning Jesus bearing away your sin, so will your faith be counted to you for righteousness by God: not that you are righteous yourself; no, but that you accept the righteousness of Jesus Christ by faith for your salvation in place of your sin. He has taken your place all through; is it too much to ask that *you take His place as innocent, justified, and made free from sin*? Oh the sweetness of it all, that we should become the **Sons of God**.

I say, believe on Him that justifies the ungodly, even the Lord Jesus Christ, and your faith will be counted for righteousness. I repeat myself in order that you may be saved. After I had been talking on this Scripture one Sabbath evening, a young woman went home to her mother, and said, "Mother, oh, it is the true religion over in that church, and I am going to join there. Mother, I have found peace tonight, the peace I have been seeking for." What was it that brought peace to this young woman's heart? I had said that He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was laid upon Him; the girl believed, and her belief was counted to her for righteousness, and thus she found peace in Him. Bless the Lord, you may have peace, too, if you will accept Him, for He is our peace. Now there is no fuss made concerning this case; I give it to you just as I heard it.

I know I said to the people that if they would believe God as Abraham did, their faith would be counted for righteousness; so it was that this young woman stepped into justification by faith; glory to God! God will not allow you and me to work for our salvation - we would spoil matters; God wants us to accept Jesus Christ the Lord as a free gift, and if we do so, we have the power to become the sons of God: again I say, God accepts us because we accept Him.

In the fourth chapter Galatians, 4<sup>th</sup> verse, it says, "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore you are no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." This is blessed, brethren; *son-ship*: how sweet, how glorious, to be brought into the son-ship of God! "Behold, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." Now, brethren, it is possible to become sons of God, and also to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, when it will speak through you in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

(To be continued.)

"Now we are free - there's no condemnation,  
"Come unto ME," oh, hear His sweet call,

Jesus provides a perfect salvation;  
Come, and He saves us once for all."

