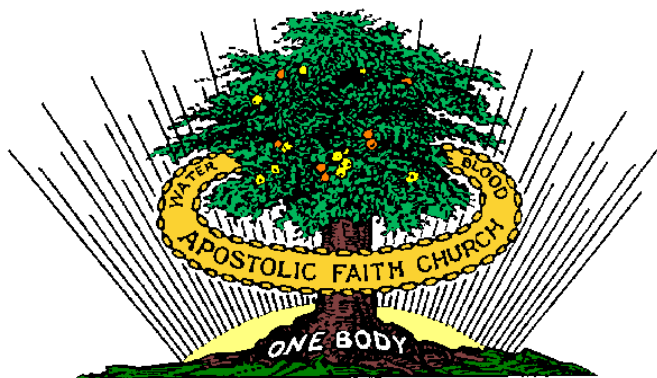


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Righteousness Through Faith (concluded) (Article by the late Pastor W. O. Hutchinson.)

Oh come let us worship Jehovah!
Ye children of Abraham, come!
Whose name in its wonderful glory
Shall bind all the nations in one.
His Word in its new and quick'ning power
Shall stir all His saints with its might;
Shall break all the kingdom of darkness
And bring in the kingdom of light.

(AFC Hymnal no. 1)

Children of Abraham. It has never dawned on some believers that Abraham is their father, but it is true; if you have faith, then you are blessed with faithful Abraham. In Galatians 3:6 we read, "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Know ye, therefore, that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham"; and in the last verse it says, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Glory be to God!

We do not know fully what we are heirs to, but we magnify the name of the Lord in that the Spirit of the Lord has come, and cries within us, Abba, Father. Yes! Sons of God! There is something very precious here. Do you know that the world is waiting for the manifestation of us the sons of God?

Let us see what the eighth chapter of Romans has to say concerning this: "The Spirit bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God."

There is a *waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God*. Who are they? "As many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:8). "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). The suffering of the present time is not to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed *in us*. The glory of the Lord shall cover the earth. How is it coming? We will see, when the sons of God are manifest, and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in full operation in the Church.

Friends of God. We may become friends of God, also, as Abraham; of course, we are already if we are His sons and keep His words. "You are My friends," said Jesus, "if you do whatsoever I command you." This brings us unto works again, but not for salvation; it is after you have become a son of God through faith in Jesus Christ that you work and gain the name

of friend.

The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin, if we walk in the light as He is in the light. Will you believe it, and be cleansed, and become a friend of God? Reach out in faith; believe God, and He will count it to you for righteousness. Amen.

Christ died on the cross for us, and in this death we died; therefore we can emphasise this truth, that He died for us, or to be personal, say, "He died for me." Then if Christ has died for me, I have died already; being counted as dead in the death of Jesus Christ.

It is a wonderful plan of salvation, brethren; it is not a plan partly worked out, but thoroughly worked out by God the Father in Jesus Christ His Son. Some people would try to prevent us from seeing this truth of **Death Union with Jesus Christ**, but we must take this to our hearts, and know that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was given up by God the Father to die for us. Following the word given of old by God in the Garden, He says, "The soul that sins it shall die." God, seeing that man failed Him, and that His plan had been broken, worked out another plan, a better one. The first Adam, we may say, was a failure; but the second Adam (or the last Adam, as He is called, more perfectly in the Scriptures; for there are only two, the first and the last), **He is a perfect man**, the man of God. Christ, the Son of God.

This plan that God worked out in Christ Jesus was thorough and perfect for every one of us in body, and spirit. As we look at Jesus Christ in His death upon the cross; as we individually believe that He died in our place we are counted by God as dead, and we on our side have to reckon ourselves dead. God looks upon us as dead in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord for this. It is a marvellous truth; one that we need to get hold of in these days. It is a fact, a real fact, a living fact. It is God's word and God cannot lie.

He gave Jesus to die in our place, and it is for us to come up to His word, not to bring the word down to us. We, ourselves, must measure up to the word of God. Praise God for those who are doing this, and making Christ Jesus to be a mighty Saviour, where at one time they made Him such a small Saviour. He is indeed a great Saviour, as great as we like to make Him. In His death on the cross He opened a fountain of Blood for sin and uncleanness. Hallelujah for this fountain which is open today! Bless the Lord!

We must not count our natural body as dead, but *the Old Adam Nature, the man of sin*. This truth puts life into me because of the mightiness of it. There is no half and half teaching in this good news. If anyone gives me a loaf of bread, let me eat it, please; do not draw it back from me. God does not hold His hand out with bread to eat, and then draw it back, saying, "You must only fancy you have got it, you must only fancy that you are dead." Oh, no, take hold of the truth as it is, beloved. God is pleased with those that believe Him. Abraham believed God; let us believe God too.

Praise God for the wonderful truths that He has given us, the things that He has brought to our remembrance. Let us rejoice in the works of the Lord, not in the work of our own hands. We are marching on in the land of promise. This is God's ground, and we are marching on in Him, and taking portion after portion. Let us see that we do not give up any ground that has come to us. In the Kingdom of God we have tongues, interpretation, discernment, prophecy, and so on; portions of the land that we are exploring now, but let us remember that there are some parts we have not reached as yet. Let us praise God we have come so far. Amen.

"We're come unto Zion!
Beautiful, beautiful Zion!
We're marching onward in Zion,
The wonderful city of God!"

