

THE EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH GOSPEL

Many have professed to proclaim the gospel that would usher in the second coming of Jesus Christ, but haven't we taken long enough in this earth to be out of here! If yes is the answer, then we are faced with an inevitable question, why then hasn't Christ returned, what have we been doing amiss in our proclamation of the gospel? This is what has led me to writing a short paper that am sure the reader will consider of these things are so. The gospel has ripen the earth for harvest but it has not meaning if we don't get it right then the church will never be ready leave alone the world.

As the title would intimate, I believe that the salvation of man hinges on the merits of the blood of Jesus Christ alone and no other thing; accepting that merit makes you one in accord with heaven. It's by his blood that all our sins are washed away, we accepted and called sons of God.

John 1:29: The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This is the whole Gospel and nothing can be added on it. Defining the word "everlasting" in a laymen language I would say that it means something that has been ever existing and has lasting consequences. Righteousness will be a state to be right with whatever demands that has been laid down and faith will be to believe something or someone without seeing it or them and gospel is simply good news bout Christ. Therefore, "The Everlasting Righteousness by Faith Gospel" will simply mean the ever-existing lasting righteousness of Christ revealed in the Good News. Why is this gospel then revealed and to whom is it revealed? Seeing that Christ is not the sinner but humanity, then the good news is not meant for Christ by humanity. Seeing that what man deserves is death for the penalty of sin, this gospel reveals hope to the hopeless. There is one who has borne my penalty and by his merits, I can live and not die. When Adam fell, he tried to cover his nakedness, but, it was just as far as his eyes could see, before God, he was still naked and nothing in a sense could make him again right with God cause he could not get back that covering on his own, somebody else who was not in his position could do it and that's where the promise for a savior came. Adam could by faith count himself covered by that promise. The life he had to live, another had to live and encourage him where he failed to rise and never fall again.

Looking unto Jesus then is the only hope for any believer who is to enter into eternal rest, Paul observes:

Eph 2:8, 9: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Hence, works are exempted from earning salvation, it purely a gift and no one ever works for a gift. The only price attached to salvation is the blood of Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, apart from this, it will be treason to the government of God for man to think that any of his own merits can earn him salvation:

Isaiah 64:6: But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

As the sinner draws to the cross prostrated before the Father for pardon, there is nothing in him that can recommend him before the Father, looking at his son, he declares the sinner right and just before him before the sinner could do anything in his life commendable. The cross then lifted is the only savor of life unto life. Christ is enthroned and the glory of man is laid in dust.

Romans 5:6, 8: For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The righteousness than that is counted on repentant sinner is not his but that of Christ. The Father then does not stand before the sinner as an executioner but a redeemer through the blood of his son. This is how Adam to the last man before probation is closed will be saved. The everlasting righteousness by faith gospel is an invitation for everyman to receive the righteousness of Christ for their salvation, by being enabled by his spirit, to walk as even he walked for you cannot be part of somebody while walking contrary to him. This, received by faith, it enables man to see his worth and come to the knowledge that he was not bought with perishable things but with that seed that is imperishable.

1Peter 1:18, 23: 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; 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Christ then had to be made like unto his brethren so that where humanity failed, he by living by example in a sinful fallen nature he could impart the necessary strength to all who would rely on him for their spiritual life.

Romans 8:3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Hebrews 2:14-18: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16: For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

The humanity of Christ then must be something of peculiar importance for there would be no need to be insisted on if it were not of any significance. What profit would it have been for Christ to come and live as God or Angel on earth as a demonstration of his love and example for humanity! The humanity of Christ is a prove to us that humanity combined with divinity can live a pure life and meet all the demands of the law, Christ in us the hope of glory. That divine nature veiled in humanity is our victory. The victory then would not be accounted on humanity because it's the divine presence of Christ in us that enables us to grow from faith to faith. When Adam fell, he became carnal and lost the divine mind of Christ to withstand Satan. The carnal mind is enmity to God and always in rebellion to his precepts. The restoration of man the will have to be the restoration of that divine mind that is similitude to his Makers mind.

2Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Not by might nor power but by the indwelling spirit of God, then we are able to live a victorious life still in this sinful fleshs

1John 3:9: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Every seed has its germinating principle and the germinating principle of the word of God is his Spirit. No one can live a perfect life that can be accepted by God without being drawn by his spirit leading him into all truth. This brings out the fruit of the spirit which is wholly Christ's manifestation in a believer's life.

This righteousness when received leadeth into obedience of all his commandments. Observe:

Titus 2:11-14: For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12: Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 3:3-8: For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4: But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7: That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8: This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

What is the gospel all about by the way? Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ. Why? Notice the following

Heb 2:11, 12, 17: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

So we are shown the life of Jesus Christ so that we can imitate it not through our strength but through His strength:

Heb 5:9, 7:19, 11:40, 13:21: And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

WHAT IS PERFECTION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Mal:4:2: But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Ec 12:13, 14: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

How do we get the righteousness through grace?

Psalms 119:172: My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

But many have carried the matter of the Law to far that it has left humanity instead of loving God, has feared him. Men have been taught that they must do something good to be accepted by God. But can man do anything salvific of himself? This would be like buying your salvation. Unless the Holy Spirit draws, no man ever come to God, man has always been running from God. When you take the righteousness of Christ as a free gift you are justified freely through the redemption of Christ. What is faith? "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. It is an assent of the understanding to God's words which binds the heart in willing consecration and service to God, who gave the understanding, who moved on the heart, who first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary. Faith is rendering to God the intellectual powers, abandonment of the mind and will to God, and making Christ the only door to enter into the kingdom of

heaven. If it were by any of man's visible efforts, then faith is nullified. Must we wait for our lives to be changed before we come together? God forbid, the death of Christ will be to nought:

Isaiah 1:18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Notice its Christ who clothes us, we can't clothe ourselves, like a sheep who has strayed away from the pen, it cannot return unless the shepherd seeks it back. So here is represented a sinner, going further into darkness till Christ pleads his blood and with longing outstretched hand knocks at the heart door of a sinner, assuring him of his everlasting love. With reassuring words, the sinner gets strength and by the same grace stands walking with his master back to the fold. He is given the oars, the enabling power of Christ, to exercise his faculties towards pureness. He is not robbed of his intellect but now his will is worked on with that sanctified will of Christ into obedience. This is faith that works.

The reason many have failed to receive the righteousness of Christ and have victory over sin is that men have been taught to look at men and imitate them. The admonition is: -

Psalms 118:8: It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalms 118:9: It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Psalms 146:3 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. {help: or, salvation}

Everytime man has looked to man, he has failed miserably, e.g. Israel desiring a King like other Nations. In men, there is disappointment, failure, heartbreak but in Christ is all strength. Having faith in Jesus for our righteousness is talkeda bout so much but never understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. Faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus. The only safety for the Israelites was blood upon the doorposts. God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). Nothing but the blood on the doorposts would bar the way that the angel of death should not enter. There is salvation for the sinner in the blood of Jesus Christ alone, which cleanseth us from all sin. The man with a cultivated intellect may have vast stores of knowledge, he may engage in theological speculations, he may be great and honored of men and be considered the repository of knowledge, but unless he has a saving knowledge of Christ crucified for him, and by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ, he is lost. Christ "was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). "Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ," will be our only hope for time and our song throughout eternity. If there are works then they must a fruit of that saving power of Christ. We are a vile branch drafted in a true vine, if we receive the sap continually from the very vine then the vileness is cleansed and we are made pure.

Good works are commended, but we cannot do them. They can be performed only by the One who is good, and that is God. If there be ever any good in us, it is God who worketh in us. There is no disparagement of anything that He does. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Heb.13:20, 21. It is not for our goodness that He loves us but because of our need. He receives us, not for the sake of anything that He sees in us but for His own sake and for what He knows that His Divine power can make of us. It is only when we realize the wonderful exaltation and holiness of God and the fact that He comes to us in our sinful and degraded condition to adopt us into His family that we can appreciate the force of the apostle's exclamation, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1. Everyone upon whom this honor has been bestowed

will purify himself, even as He is pure. God does not adopt us as His children because we are good but in order that He may make us good. Says Paul, "God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loves us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us [made us alive] together with Christ (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:4-7. He gives us His Spirit to make us alive in Christ, and the same Spirit marks our adoption into the Divine family, and He thus adopts us that, as new creatures in Christ, we may do the good works which God has ordained.

It is so rare for men to do anything without expecting an equivalent, that theologians have taken it for granted that it is the same with God. So they begin their dissertations on God's covenant with the statement that a covenant is "a mutual agreement between two or more persons, to do or refrain from doing certain things." But God does not make bargains with men, because He knows that they could not fulfil their part. After the flood God made a covenant with every beast of the earth, and with every fowl; but the beasts and the birds did not promise anything in return. Gen.9:9-16. They simply received the favor at the hand of God. That is all we can do. God promises us everything that we need, and more than we can ask or think, as a gift. We give Him ourselves, that is, nothing, and He gives us Himself, that is, everything. That which makes all the trouble is that even when men are willing to recognize the Lord at all, they want to make bargains with Him. They want it to be a "mutual" affair--a transaction in which they will be considered as on a par with God. But whoever deals with God must deal with Him on His own terms, that is, on a basis of fact--that we have nothing and are nothing, and He has everything and is everything, and gives everything.

THE EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH GOSPEL IS TIED WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST. IT REVEALS TO HUMANITY THE POWER WHICH HE DOES NOT POSSESS YET GIVEN FREELY TO EVERYONE WHO TIES HIMSELF TO CHRIST.

The commandments of God are an everlasting gospel in the sense that they define the character which when obtained it is everlasting. The character of God is everlasting and His character is revealed in His Righteous, Holy and Royal Law, a transcript of His Kingdom to come and so Jesus sums up by saying:

M't 5:13-19: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his Saviour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The everlasting gospel is to expose Satan and his wiles and vindicate the image of God; it is a message of allegiance to the one you believe in. The Kingdom of Light verses the Kingdom of darkness. The two Kingdoms are defined by the principles that govern them. The very first gospel that was preached to Adam and Eve is the same Gospel that is being preached to us "honor God and worship Him alone" and that is revealed in the first four Commandments and the last six are in relation to the neighbor

The Everlasting righteousness by faith Gospel is the "Good News" about Jesus and the plan of redemption and salvation from sin through faith in Jesus Christ--the connecting link between God and man (John 14:6, Genesis 28:12-13). This glorious gospel declares that we can be freely justified before God (Isaiah 45:25, Romans 3:28, Galatians 2:16, Romans 3:24, Titus 3:7, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 5:9, 3:4, Matthew 12:37, Romans 2:13, James 3:20-24), obtain grace and strength to stand (Romans 5:1-5, Ephesians 6:10-18, Galatians 5:1), warring against and victoriously overcoming all temptations and sins (Romans 8:1-2) unto righteousness (Romans 6:16,

5:21) and continued sanctification through Christ and His Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 23:6, Isaiah 61:10, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13) which strengtheneth us (Philippians 4:13). This gospel is not "all faith" or "all grace" which shuts out our efforts, nor is it "all works" which shuts out Jesus. It is the uniting of divinity and humanity--God working and us working for our salvation (Phil 2:12-13, Rev 22:14).

His Righteousness working unto Sanctification

After being justified and receiving pardon from passed acknowledged, confessed, and forsaken sins (Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9) that righteousness works into transformation of character, and is not given or retained while transgressing God's law (James 2:24). It is not "once justified (saved) always justified (saved)!"

What is Sanctification? Sanctification is the continual growing in grace by daily studying God's word (1 Corinthians 6:11, 1 Timothy 4:5, John 17:19) and daily dying to self by conforming to God's will. We must keep God's law to attain and maintain sanctification. Thus it means perfect love, perfect obedience, perfect conformity to God's will (Isaiah 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

If we were defective in character, we could not pass the gates that mercy has opened to the obedient; for justice stands at the entrance, and demands holiness, purity, in all who would see God. Were justice extinct, and were it possible for divine mercy to open the gates to the whole race, irrespective of character, there would be a worse condition of disaffection and rebellion in heaven than before Satan was expelled. The peace, happiness, and harmony of heaven would be broken up. The change from earth to heaven will not change men's characters; the happiness of the redeemed in heaven results from the characters formed in this life, after the image of Christ. The saints in heaven will first have been saints on earth. The salvation that Christ made such a sacrifice to gain for man, is that which is alone of value, that which saves from sin--the cause of all the misery and woe in our world. Mercy extended to the sinner is constantly drawing him to Jesus. If he responds, coming in penitence with confession, in faith laying hold of the hope set before him in the gospel, God will not despise the broken and contrite heart. Thus the law of God is not weakened, but the power of sin is broken, and the scepter of mercy is extended to the penitent sinner.

The righteousness of Christ by faith has been ignored by some; for it is contrary to their spirit and their whole life experience. Rule, rule, has been their course of action. Satan has had an opportunity of representing himself. When one who professes to be a representative of Christ engages in sharp dealing and in pressing men into hard places, those who are thus oppressed will either break every fetter of restraint, or they will be led to regard God as a hard master. They cherish hard feelings against God, and the soul is alienated from Him, just as Satan planned it should be. My only prayer for this last generation is to look up unto Christ and live.

Hebrews 12:2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

BLESSINGS
