

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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By Pastor David W. Cheatwood
Of the Hedrick Church of God
info@hedrickchurchofgod.org

I WILL FAIL YOU BUT CHRIST JESUS WILL NOT

Two fellow travelers were seated together in a railway compartment engaged in earnest conversation of a religious nature. One of them, a skeptic, was evidently trying to excuse his unbelief by exposing the various evils which afflict Christendom, detailing with pleasure the hypocrisy and the craft, and the covetousness and divisions found in the professing church, and then he pointed to some of the leaders as the most markedly corrupt of all.

In front of them sat a Christian who was compelled to hear all this. He knew the accusations to be true – too true to be concealed from the most charitable mind – so all he could do was to bow his head and bear the deserved reproach. Soon, however, the accuser, anxious to extend the circle of his audience, addressed this fellow passenger in front of him.

“I see you are quick to detect evil,” said the Christian, “and you read character pretty well. You have been uncovering the abominable things that have turned Christendom into a wreck, and are fast ripening it for the judgment of God. You have spared none, but given all a good measure. Now, I am a Christian and love the Lord Jesus and His people. Not a word shall I offer in defense, but I solemnly challenge you to speak the first word against the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.”

The skeptic was surprised. He seemed almost frightened and sheepishly replied, “Well, no! I could not find fault with Him. He was perfect.”

“Just so!” said the Christian. “Therefore was my heart attracted to Him, and the more I looked, the more I found I was not like Him at all, but only a poor, guilty, sinful man. All of the evil which professed followers of His may do cannot turn me away from Him. My salvation hangs on what He has done, and not on what they are doing.”

Romans 5:1-11 (NASB)

1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through who also we have obtained our introduction by faith into the grace in which we stand; and we exalt in hope of the glory of God. 3

And not only this but we also exult in our tribulation, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance: 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The man on that train had a good point. We as Christians have been known to fail to live like the Messiah that died for our sin. But you also need to understand that we are not Jesus, but his followers. We are trying to live right, but we have our bad days and our bad behavior to deal with just like you.

In verse one the word “justified” is used concerning our forgiveness by God for our sins. The best definition I have ever heard about this word is “just as if I had never sinned.” Thus we can come before God with a repentant heart and seek continued forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

I love that verse, but you must also realize that this verse is to be applied to those who have committed their lives to Christ as their Savior and Lord. It is available so we can renew that commitment when we fail and get right with God through His Son, Jesus our Messiah.

This is grace, God’s way of making us right when we cannot do it on our own. Thank you, Father, for the hope we have in Jesus.

Look at verse six again. “While we were still helpless” This is important to understand. We don’t have a chance for redemption without the sacrifice God provided in His Son. When we accept that, we are on our way to a right relationship with God and His Son.

Remember: “God loves you”. This is important for all of us to understand. He is not a bully demanding our obedience. He is a loving God who sees our weakness and offers us hope.

When Jesus’ blood was shed on the Cross at Calvary it was shed to cover for our sins. If we accept that sacrifice we can be right with God. Will we mess up

after we are made right with God? I am afraid so. But don't give up. Those who fall and don't get back up are the failures. We who get up, admit our sin, turn from it and ask God's forgiveness are forgiven.

The bottom line is this: We are all sinners and fail to live up to God's standard. We can be reconciled to God by accepting Jesus sacrifice for our sins. Are you right with God? The perfect Jesus died for us. Yahweh is waiting for you to cleanse your heart through the blood of His Son and become a Child of God. What is your decision?

For more information, Pastor David W. Cheatwood may be reached at info@hedrickchurchofgod.org