

John 5: 24; “He who Believes Has Eternal life”, Sermon # 33 in the series – “That All May Honor the Son”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 3rd, 2015, in the Afternoon Worship Service as a Communion Message.

This is one of the most precious verses in the whole Bible, for it is designed to give any sinner who comes to Jesus in simple faith the assurance, that they will find, and that they will have, eternal and everlasting life. It tells us how, by simple faith in Jesus Christ and His Word, by simply trusting in the Father’s promise concerning His Son, that you who believe, actually do have eternal life. This is Good News indeed! So we want to explore the words of this precious promise by asking the following questions. 1st – How is it possible that I can come to have everlasting life by simply hearing and believing Christ’s Word? 2nd – How can I know that I will not be judged for all of my sins? And 3rd – How can I know that I have passed from death into life? May the Lord open our eyes to the beauty and glory of these precious truths.

1st of all – How is it possible that I can come to have everlasting life by simply hearing and believing Christ’s Word?

It is possible, because you are believing in the One who is always faithful to His promise. God the Father and Christ His blessed Son never lie when in what they have spoken in the Scriptures. The truth that they speak, as Persons of the Godhead, was always spoken in perfect faithfulness in relation to what they will do for sinners. Look with me over at the book of Titus chapter 1, verse 1 and you will see this. “Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me, according to the commandment of God our Savior.” There you have it; God cannot lie. And the God who cannot lie, promised before time began that He would have an elect people, and that He would send His only-begotten Son in the fullness of time, to redeem them. Salvation is not based upon your works. It is based upon the promise of God. It is based upon what He will do for you, not upon what you will do for Him. And you and I must come to better understand what God and Christ have promised to do for us in salvation. It is to give us grace, where that grace is not deserved. It is to give us grace which is unmerited. It is the grace that God will give which will deal with all of our sins. We will be given grace to be justified, grace to be sanctified and grace to be glorified. Our being saved by our own works and efforts is not possible in God’s sight.

Therefore, as it says in Romans 10, verse 4 – “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. You must believe in Christ in order to be saved because Christ is the Righteous One and you are not. You should understand that Christ has an intrinsic righteousness which is found in His Person, in His very nature. But you should understand further that when the Lord Jesus came into the world, He came to render a perfect obedience to God’s holy law, as a Man; and that He is the only Mediator between God and man. He alone can bridge the gap which sin has made, separating us from God. God the Father has commanded that all men everywhere repent and believe the gospel, or the Good News, concerning Christ. “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment but has passed from death into life.” It is not your attempting to do good works to please God, or to atone for your sins, but rather it is believing the declaration of the Father that the Lord Jesus has done everything perfectly in your place. The Father is perfectly pleased and satisfied with the obedience of Christ on your behalf, and the sufferings of Christ on your behalf. Let’s think about His obedience for a moment. Look with me over at Matthew

chapter 3 and verse 13 – “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.” “And John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?’” “But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’” “Then he allowed Him.” “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” “And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

Now, I hope that you can see why it was that John permitted Jesus to be baptized even though He was a perfect man in all of His ways. Though He needed to repent of nothing that He had done, He asked John to baptize Him in order to “fulfill all righteousness”. And the way that Jesus would fulfill all righteousness was to take the sinner’s place in obeying God’s law perfectly and completely. He was obedient to God’s holy law in every way; and then His obedience led Him to the cross, because of His great love for the Father, to do His will, and His great love for us as sinners; to suffer the punishment which was due to us, taking our place in judgment. John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He was instructing all those who came to him, that they were indicating by their being baptized, the fact that they were repentant. When they were baptized, they were showing God their sincere sorrow for having broken His law, and their sincere intent to do and keep God’s commandments in the future. But in being baptized with John’s baptism they were also being instructed by John to believe in the one who was coming after him, the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason that Jesus was being baptized was to show forth His own identification with all sinners trusting in Him. Even though He was not a sinner, He was willing to take their place in obedience to God’s law, and suffer for the sins of every one trusting in Him. He was willing to become their substitute and their surety so that they could be saved. All this work of the Lord Jesus on behalf of sinners is received by faith. But the Lord Jesus would even have to die to purchase the very graces of faith and repentance that we would exercise so that we could be saved. In other words, everything which is required by God in your obeying the gospel, to repent and to believe, and to persevere as a Christian to the end of your life, was part of the purchase that Jesus made by means of His dying on the cross.

The fact that the Father publicly declared His approval of Jesus at His baptism, in His saying: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased,” shows us that He would have every sinner and everyone who has been saved by grace, understand that His justice has been satisfied in Christ His Son. And it is this satisfaction that became the basis for our acceptance, and our being justified (our being declared righteous) in His sight, by faith. When you believe in Jesus the guilt of all of your sins has been expiated. He has made amends for it. He has made up for all the wrongs that you have done. He has done those things which you should have done, or should be doing perfectly in the sight of the holy God. God’s Justice has been satisfied and the guilt of your many sins has been removed and blotted out of your record before God. And your name has been written in the Lamb’s book of life. Being forgiven of all of your sins, and being justified in God’s sight are something which can only be received by faith. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. “He who hears Christ’s word and believes in the Father who sent Him has everlasting life.” But is this believing left to your own inclination, and your own freedom of will? No, not in the least, for you were dead in your trespasses and sins. Your carnal mind was enmity toward God. While you were God’s enemy, you were reconciled to God. And you were saved not only by Christ’s death, but you were also saved by His life.

This giving of His life meant that you were given ears to hear and eyes to see the importance of believing the gospel. But it also meant that as you heard the gospel that God gave you the power to actually exercise faith and to believe it unto salvation. “The Lord opened Lydia’s heart to respond to the things spoken to her by Paul.” (Acts 16: 14) And Acts 13: 48 – “As many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.” Many hear the gospel and the word of Christ and

yet they do not believe, but this text says: “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life.” The person who has been given ears to hear will hear the gospel with a view to acting upon it. They will be irresistibly drawn to Jesus and they will believe because the Holy Spirit is at work in their heart. This is what you should remember as you come to the Lord’s table this afternoon. Remember that your Lord Jesus suffered, bled, and died, so that you might hear with spiritually opened ears, and believe in the testimony of the Father which is found in the gospel. This has been received by everyone who believes – “And as many as received Him, He gave the right, He gave the power to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1: 12 and 13.)

Now 2nd – How can I know that I will not be judged for all of my sins?

Our verse tells us – “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment.” The reason that I know that I will not be judged for all of my sins is because I have trusted and am trusting in Christ’s finished work of redemption for me. Mine is a living faith by the grace of God. I know that when I am faithless in any given situation, that Christ is faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. Christ is the One who upholds my faith. He cannot deny me before the Father; I now have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. I have One who ever lives to make intercession for me. He has suffered in the place of the one believing in Him. God will not punish twice for the same sins and offenses because He has laid the wrath that I deserve upon Jesus. And because of this, God will not bring up my many sins and iniquities in the Day of judgment. Why? Because all of God’s judgment fell upon Christ, then God the Father has given all judgment to the Son, and my Lord Jesus will not cast me out, or cast me away. He intercedes for me before the throne of God when the accusations of my enemy Satan come to His ears. His blood and righteousness; His wounds they plead for me. He is my King and He defends me. He is my Shepherd, and His rod and staff they comfort me. He will be my judge on that great Day, and bold shall I stand on that great Day, for who aught to my charge can lay? Christ has purchased forgiveness, and He has granted me grace. Because I have trusted in Christ, and because of His grace, I will be able to hold fast my confidence in Him to the end of my life; until I see my Savior-Redeemer face to face. If I have trusted in Jesus, I have received the atonement. All of my sins are covered. They will be remembered no more. It is not as though God cannot remember them. It is that He chooses not to remember them anymore. I am not under the covenant of law, I am under the covenant of grace; the New Covenant.

Turn with me over to Hebrews chapter 8, and verse 7. “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.” “Because finding fault with them, He says, “Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.” “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” “None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.” “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, (in Jeremiah 31: 34 it says, “For I will forgive their iniquity) and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” I think that we need to take notice of what the new covenant covers in terms of our sins; it is not just some of them, it is all of them that the Father and Christ will deal with. “I will be merciful to their unrighteousness”. What a statement! God will be merciful to us in relation to all the unrighteousness of our mind and heart. This means not only all the transgressions of the past, but also the failings and sins

during the time of your sanctification; during the time of you stay here upon the earth. You are being made fit for glory and the eternal inheritance by means of the precious grace of Christ. With this in mind, I would ask you to come down front and partake of the Supper.

3rd – How can I know that I have passed from death into life?

“He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” Let us understand that there is a reality to the efficacy of Christ’s blood and righteousness. It’s power is very real at the beginning of the Christian life, in your conversion to Christ, and it continues all through our life. When I first trust in Jesus Christ savingly, I pass from death into life, and that life will never be taken from me. This is also because of the faithfulness of Jesus Christ and the promise of the Father that it shall be so. A sinner passes from death to life when they receive the working of the Holy Spirit upon their mind, and upon their spirit, in the gift of regeneration. Then the Holy Spirit seals you following your placing your faith in Jesus Christ. Spiritual conception has taken place, spiritual birth follows, and eternal life has begun. As you live my life, when you sin, the Bible instructs you to confess your sins, as you realize them, and are convicted of them. You speak to God about them and repent of them, and you are forgiven. And you are cleansed of the guilt and even the pollution of that sin by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. How can this be? This is part of the New Covenant; that which He purchased with His blood.

You know that you have passed from death to life when the power of sin is broken over your life. You no longer are able to practice sin, or countenance it in your life. This does not mean that you are sinlessly perfect at any point in your earthly journey. You will have occasional real struggles with sin. But God would have you take courage, from what it says in 1st John 2: 1 and 2 – “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.” “And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” “And He Himself is the propitiation (the wrath removing and guilt freeing sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” Oh what a blessed truth. It truly is what you and I should glory in now as we partake of the Supper. An advocate is one who takes up the case and cause of another in a legal sense. But Jesus in becoming our Advocate, took up our cause by laying down His life for us. Since Jesus has shed His precious blood for me, the one trusting in Him, the Father will not bring me into eternal judgment. Instead I am forgiven and clothed in Christ’s righteousness.