

15.C. COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN ACCEPTANCE

WITH GOD

ACCEPTANCE - HOLINESS - PRIVILEGES (THE 3 GREAT PURCHASED BLESSINGS)

The righteousness that we have in Christ, is through His grace. We do not to earn it. It is from the richness of His Grace and Kindness to us. So, it is a reason to rejoice in this gift that comes from God. It is through this righteousness of Christ that we receive peace and assurance in our souls. As we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.

This righteousness of Christ brings our souls to a state of perfect peace with God. ISA 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you". PSA 4:8 "I will die down and sleep in peace, for you alone, oh Lord, make me dwell in safety".

We will discuss more fully the subject of "peace of heart and mind" in chapters **19 and 20**. I need to familiarize myself more adequately with this teaching, as on the surface it can appear contradictory - and we know that God's word does not contradict itself.

The fears that we had before, are cast out for those that are now justified. The storm is over, and we rest with confidence in our Lord and Master. We have now been enabled to come boldly (not arrogantly) to the throne of Grace. This we do with confidence, peace, joy, and assurance. Those that call God their Father, can strengthen themselves in His love.

We as believers, heartily approve of Christ's righteousness, because it greatly honours the Lord Jesus whom we love. We also know that because Christ worked out our acceptance with God, that Jesus is honoured by His Father. Because of Jesus' absolute obedience to death on the cross, God the Father has exalted Him to the name above all names.

Christ is not only honoured by us believers here on earth but is also worshipped and praised by the angels in heaven. Why? - because of His obedience to the Father.

We get a glimpse of this in REV 5: 11-14 John mentions thousands upon thousands, and a hundred million besides. These in heaven who rejoice are those that never sinned, nevertheless their hearts are filled with gratitude to be able to honour Jesus for the bringing of His redeemed to salvation.

On earth, the Lord Jesus Christ is honoured by the Saints. We are the ones who have benefited exclusively by the Master's work of redemption. It is the solemn duty of the Christen Church to honour the Lord Christ. The appropriate honouring of Jesus brings glory to God the Father, the source of all love.

We as believers are to continually keep alive in our hearts a sense of guilt and the evil of sin, even when we are fully assured of our acceptance with God. As we keep in mind a sense of pardon which takes away the horror and fear, but not a due sense of the guilt of sin. This sense of guilt also helps us to subdue pride, which is the great enemy of human endeavour. ECC 4:4 "And I saw that all labour and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbour"

As we reflect on our lives, we need to bring to mind the sins that we have failed to bring to the reckoning account at the mercy seat of God. Our hidden and neglected sin does not escape God's notice. Why neglect them? Satan uses them as a whip to our backs, and the Lord looks on them as treasonable to His love for us. Confessed sin brings the joy of the Master's smile. Unconfessed sin brings guilt and shame.

Christ has called us to bring our burdens (unconfessed sin) to Him, and Christ bears them on His shoulders. **MATT 11:28** It is our daily work to bring our burdens to Christ. This is what it means to know Christ crucified. This is how we draw near to Christ and take from Him that righteousness, which was wrought for us.

The burden that Christ asks us to lay on Him, is the very reason He came into the world. Christ wants us to trust in Him. To have faith in His redeeming work. And we honour Christ by obeying and following His example and instructions to us.

Without Christ, we are cursed. But now that we have Christ, we are greatly Blessed. Without Christ, we are spiritually dead, but now we rejoice in this new life.

Communion with Christ produces repentance. Surely, if we truly know our Lord and Master, will we continue on the road of disobedience and filth? Confession and repentance always go together. The committing of sin needs to be confessed and then repentance (turning away) from that behaviour needs to take place.

Communion with Christ produces obedience. Christ has been and is the great example God has given for obedience. As sin is confessed, it is put away from us as far as east is from west, and in so doing fulfills Christ's mission on earth, so bringing glory to the triune God.

How do we practice this duty? By faith (trusting in God) Faith exercises itself in this regard through meditation. Through meditation we are able to examine ourselves in relation to the Lord's expectation of us. The heart continually thinks of Christ, and what He has done and wants us to do. This we do by clinging to the promises the Lord has given to us.

And lastly, faith exercise this duty through prayer. Through prayer we lay our sins, our hopes, and our desires at the foot of the cross of our glorious Saviour.

And so, this is how we have fellowship and acceptance with Christ Jesus in God the Father.