

Counterfeit Righteousness by Faith

Are there different kinds of “righteousness by faith”? Revelation 14 presents an “everlasting gospel” that validates itself by raising up a people who truly “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” They prepare for the literal second coming of Christ (vss. 6-15). The author of the Book of Revelation also writes a series of warnings against false claims of “righteousness by faith” in which “we lie and do not practice the truth”; “we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”; “we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us”; “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, etc.).

Apparently the apostle John wants us to be able to discern any other “gospel” that does not produce obedience to all the commandments of God as a false “gospel.” A preacher who says he is proclaiming the “gospel” but himself continues to “break one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so,” says Jesus, could be a highly sophisticated deception, not realizing who he really is (see Matthew 5:19).

There are those who say they belong in Revelation 14, but let themselves be fooled by a counterfeit “righteousness by faith” that promotes the idea that overcoming sin is impossible and therefore not necessary for salvation. However, the true “everlasting gospel” must produce obedience to all those commandments in the one who himself is preaching it.

Is this “overcoming” idea a reversion to “legalism”? Absolutely not! “The everlasting gospel” of Revelation 14 is not legalism—“law-keeping” in an attempt to obtain salvation. No, the true gospel is a clearer understanding of the cross of Christ than has ever yet “lightened the earth with glory.” Its full development is proclaimed in Revelation 18:1-4.

The final crisis will be two opposite views of “righteousness by faith.” One view will spin the Emperor’s New Clothes, with multitudes rejoicing in “imputed righteousness,” without noticing that nothing has been “imparted” through the transformation of their characters. Thinking they are “covered” by what they assume is a spiritual insurance policy, they will fall for “the mark of the beast,” which will be the most sophisticated counterfeit of “the everlasting gospel” the world has ever seen. We will need “spiritual discernment” to identify the counterfeit.

JULY 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sabbath
						1 SS – Ann Walper Sermon – Leslie Walper
2 PARADE DAY	3	4	5	6 BIBLE STUDY 5:30PM	7	8 SS – Joyce Kimbel Sermon – Tory Kimbel
9	10	11	12	13 BIBLE STUDY 5:30PM	14	15 SS – Jerry Vogt Sermon – Leslie Walper
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 SS – Ann Walper Sermon – Pastor Clark Communion
23/30	24/31	25	26	27 BIBLE STUDY 5:30PM	28	29 SS – Joyce Kimbel Sermon – David Steen

Lancaster Seventh-day
Adventist Church
742 Lancaster Hwy.
(Hwy. 141)
Lancaster, Tennessee

P.O. Box 159
Gordonsville, TN 38563

Bread from on High

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Nature of the Judgment (Part 1)

by S.N. Haskell
Cross and Its Shadow

The judgment is spoken of by every Bible writer. It is mentioned over a thousand times in the Sacred Writings. It is more solemn than death; for death separates friends only until the resurrection, but the judgment separates them forever. No one can escape it.

To ignore the thought of the judgment and live without preparing for it, will not evade it. Solomon recognized this fact when he wrote, “Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.” (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

The decisions of earthly courts may often be changed by money and friends, and the guilty may be released; but not so the heavenly court. There every one must meet the record of his own life. “Every one ... shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12). Earthly parents have been known to sacrifice every thing they possessed to save one child from the condemnation of earthly courts.

Think you our heavenly Father would let Satan destroy all His children without an effort to save them? He risked all heaven for our sakes, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,

that whosoever believeth Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

No human being can face his life record in the books of heaven, and escape condemnation, unless belief in Christ and a love for His service is a part of that record.

Christ, the heavenly Advocate, will plead the cases of all who have given Him their sins. He says, “I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” (Isaiah 43:25).

The life record, scarlet with sins and wretchedness, the Saviour covers with the spotless robe of His righteousness; and the Judge, looking upon it, sees only the sacrifice of His Son, and the record is, “Accepted in the Beloved.” Who can reject such infinite love?

The judgment involves, first, the investigation of every case, the testimony of witnesses, and the plea of the advocate, if there is an advocate. Then comes the decision of the court; after that follows the execution of the sentence rendered by the court.

A just sentence can not be rendered in any court until the witnesses have borne their testimony; for that reason a just sentence in the heavenly could not be executed upon an individual when they die. Through their writings, Payne



and Voltaire have made more infidels since their death than while living. A just sentence could not be passed upon them until the record of the lives of those who had been lost through their influence, appeared as witnesses in their case.

On the other hand, the influence of the righteous is like the waves on the surface of a lake, which continue to widen until they reach the shore. Abel, “being dead, yet speaketh” (Hebrews 11:4). Wycliffe, that fearless man of God, could not have been judged at the close of his life, for thousands have been enlightened by the influence of his life since his voice was hushed in death.

If the Bible record were silent upon this point, it would still be apparent at a glance that the judgment could not be held before the last generation had lived their life; but the Bible

continued on page 2

Inside this Issue

- Fitted with God’s Righteousness 2
- Breakfast Bowl 3
- Singing Better Health 3
- Counterfeit Righteousness by Faith 4

is not silent. The date of the opening of this great tribunal was revealed by the Lord thousands of years before it took place. Peter taught the same truth. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you" (Acts 3:19, 20). The sins will be blotted out just before the coming of the Lord.

The investigative judgment is an examination of the life record kept in heaven. Daniel says that when the judgment was set, "the books were opened" (Daniel 7:10). There are several books mentioned in connection with the records of heaven.

The book of remembrance records even the thoughts of the heart. How just and merciful is our God that He takes cognisance of it when we only think upon His name! Often when pressed by temptation, our souls cry out after the living God, and a faithful record is kept of it all.

Many deeds are done in darkness, hidden from even the most intimate associates; but when the books of heaven are opened, God "will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the heart" (1 Corinthians 4:5). "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Not only the deeds are recorded, but the motives or counsels of the heart that prompted the deed; and of the bitter tears of repentance shed in secret the Lord says, Are they not all in My book? (see Psalm 56:8).

Our daily conversation, the words spoken without thought, we may count of little worth, but "every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment: for by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:36). Words are the index of the heart, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). The place of birth and the environment, everything that can in any way influence the life record, is all recorded in the books of heaven. The most wonderful book of all the heavenly records that pertain to humanity, is the book of life. This book contains the names of all who have professed the name of Christ. To have one's name recorded in that book is the highest honour given to mortals. 🌿

Fitted with the Righteousness of God

Now Romans 5:17: "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ." What is righteousness in that verse? A gift. "Their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." It is a gift of righteousness. Now put those two things together: "Their righteousness is of me" (Isaiah 54:17). He who receives it receives a gift of righteousness, according to God's idea of righteousness. Do you see that point? Then he who does not receive the righteousness of God as the free gift of God, does not have righteousness. And He cannot so have it, you see, because it is a gift. It is of God. It comes from God by the precious gift that it is. And therefore it being of God, and He giving it of His own gift, it is left to me to get it in His own way. He gives what is His own and He gives it according to His own idea. That is the genuine article; that is the righteousness of God alone. Then don't you see in that there can be no room for a single thread of human invention? (see *Christ's Object Lessons*, 311). We cannot get it in there at all. Don't you see what ample provision the Lord has made that we may have the perfect robe which He Himself hath woven, which is the righteousness of God itself and which will make us complete now and in the time of the plagues and in every other time and throughout all eternity? Brethren, I am glad that that is so. I am just as glad as I can be.

A sister told me not long ago that she had just been lamenting her estate and wondering how in the world the time was ever going to come for the Lord to come if He had to wait for His people to get ready to meet Him. For she said the way she had been at it—and she had worked as hard as anybody in this world, she thought—she saw that she was not making progress fast enough to bring the Lord in any kind of reasonable time at all, and she could not make out how the Lord was going to come. She was bothered about it, but she said when the folks came home from Minneapolis and they said, "Why the Lord's righteousness is a gift; we can have the righteousness of Christ as a gift, and we can have it now." "Oh," said she, "That made me glad; that brought light, for then I could see how the Lord could come pretty soon. When He Himself gives us the garment, the clothing, the character, that fits us for the judgment and for the time of trouble, I could then see how He could come just as soon as He wanted to. And, it made me glad, and I have been glad every since."

Thank the Lord He can get us ready. The master of the wedding feast always provided the wedding garment. Christ is the Master of the wedding supper now, and He says, "Here is the clothing that will fit you to stand in that place." Now there will be some folks that cannot attend that feast, because they have not got the wedding garment on, but the Lord offers it as a free gift to all; and as to the man who does not have it, who is to blame? (*General Conference Bulletin*, 1893)

BREAKFAST BOWL



- 1 cup frozen mango chunks
- 3/4 cup nonfat yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 soymilk
- 1/4 ripe peach, sliced
- 1/3 cup raspberries
- 1 Tbsp sliced almonds, toasted
- 1 Tbsp unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1 tsp chia seeds

1. Combine mango, yogurt, milk and vanilla in a blender; puree until smooth.
2. Pour the smoothie into a bowl and top with peach slices, raspberries, almonds, coconut and chia seeds to taste..

Serving size is one smoothie: 374 calories; 10 g fat; 8 g fiber; 50 g carbohydrates; 24 g protein; 101 mcg folate; 13 mg cholesterol; 40 g sugars; 2,174 IU vitamin A (43% dv); 76 mg vitamin C (127% daily value); 319 mg calcium (32% dv); 1 mg iron; 94 mg sodium; 864 mg potassium

Singing Better Health

Singing helps you live longer according to the findings of a joint Harvard and Yale study which showed that choral singing increased the life expectancy of the population of New Haven, Connecticut. The report concluded that this was because singing promoted both a healthy heart and an enhanced mental state.

Another study at the University of California has reported higher levels of immune system proteins in the saliva of choristers after performing a complex Beethoven masterwork. Researchers have worked out that singing seems to produce the perfect mix of both calming and energizing based on what it does to release brain "feel-good" hormones.

Professor Graham Welch, Chair of Music Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, has studied the developmental and medical aspects of singing for 30 years. He found that the health benefits of singing are both physical and psychological.

"Singing has physical benefits because it is an aerobic activity that increases oxygenation in the blood stream and exercises major muscle groups in the upper body, even when sitting.

"Singing has psychological benefits because of its normally positive effect in reducing stress levels through the action of the endocrine system which is linked to our sense of emotional well-being.

"Psychological benefits are also evident when people sing together as well as alone because of the increased sense of community, belonging and shared endeavor."

Singing has been shown to release endorphins in the brain. An endorphin is a chemical that works by blocking the cells responsible for the sensation of pain and certain negative emotions, and therefore are known as the "feel good" hormones. Strenuous

physical exercise, such as walking at a moderate rate, also releases endorphins, and is responsible for the "runner's high."

Endorphins are responsible for the "placebo effect" patients report when taking a non-medication pill. Believing something will make us better can be enough to release endorphins in the brain, and then we do feel better because of their effect.

Another "feel good" hormone produced in our brain is oxytocin. Oxytocin is probably familiar to many people as the bonding hormone released during the normal birthing process.

But its release into defined regions of the brain also affects emotional, cognitive, and social behaviors, and this effect has given it the name "love" or "cuddle" hormone because it increases feelings of love and trust toward those around you. Singing has been shown to increase the levels of oxytocin in your brain. 🌿

Did You Know?

Oxytocin cannot be consciously controlled, but it responds and quickly adapts to the environment in which we find ourselves. When trust levels are low, people focus their energy on their own protection and survival, and oxytocin levels fall. When we find ourselves in a trust-enhancing environment, anxiety is reduced and we are motivated to engage in win-win interactions. Dr. Paul Zak explains that inter-personal touch not only raises oxytocin, but reduces cardiovascular stress and improves the immune system. Rather than just a hand-shake, go in for the hug. Dr. Zak recommends eight hugs each day.