

The Danger of Righteousness By Faith

This is a document set out by William Barron for the clarity of the subject of righteousness by faith. Righteousness by faith, as is stated in the Bible by the apostle Paul in the book of Galatians, ch5:

⁴ Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

⁵ For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

⁶ For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

⁷ Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Seeing that the righteousness of which Paul speaks here is the one that “we” (the saints) wait for through the Spirit with hope by faith, we can see that the traditional secular definition of the term ‘righteousness by faith’ is made false by this verse alone. The question that Paul poses in verse 7 is not “who did hinder you that ye should not believe the truth”, instead the word there is “obey”.

Who falls? A justified person, *a just man*. As you fall again, are you no longer a just person if you have the same contrite spirit that continues with you, if you continue to believe in Jesus? Are you a person who will then say, “Oh, that’s good, I can continue sinning because I’m going to be justified again”? That’s not a just man’s thinking. A just man is someone who believes in Jesus and believes that when he makes a mistake he is not condemned, because he believes that he is forgiven when he repents; because he will repent; he’s a just man, he will rise again. – www.sabbathsermons.com

This definition is taken verbatim from a website that is the third web search result for ‘righteousness by faith’. Certainly, one website does not speak for all, but by taking an excerpt from the website which ranks highly among millions, we can see what popular thinking is.

Translated, this quote says that a just man understands that Jesus will forgive him for sins committed if he believes that the only righteousness he has is from his belief on Jesus’ own righteousness. That through belief, we will be imparted with righteousness. This person says what the world thinks a just man is; that though mistakes are made, Jesus will always forgive the repentor.

1 John 1:8-10 says:

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Now seeing that it is true from the Word that Jesus will forgive the truly repentant, let's ask what repentance is. The current dictionary definition states:

to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life

Ellen White says:

While they were professing to be God's commandment keeping people, their works denied their faith, and without true repentance for their sins they would have no part in the kingdom of Christ. Justice, benevolence, mercy, and the love of God would characterize the lives of his commandment-keeping people. Unless these fruits were seen in their daily life, all their profession was of no more value than chaff which would be devoted to the fire of destruction. RH January 14, 1873 par4

Positively identified, repentance is only complete when the guilty party stops committing the sin. There is no true repentance without works to validate the confession and repentance.

James says thusly:

²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Clearly stated here is the truth that if a person is a hearer of the word, but does not the works that Truth has set out for them, then they "deceive their own selves".

The apostle Paul has this to say to the Romans about faith and works (deeds), ch3:

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

²⁹ Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

³⁰ Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

The process of salvation and redemption through Christ begins with Justification. After we are justified through the acceptance of Christ and His merits, presented to the His Father on our behalf, covering our sins with His righteousness; the process becomes a continual process of submission called Sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 4:4

⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

2 Thessalonians 2:13,14

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

¹⁴ Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:29-31

²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

³¹ That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

1 Peter 1:2,3

² Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

We see from Peter's writings that the sanctification process is one that is "unto obedience". Obedience to what?

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Hebrews 5:8-11

⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

Let us not be dull of hearing, seeing that the Bible extensively uses the word 'obey' connected with Christ. What then does Christ say about obedience to Him and what He wishes us to do?

John 14:14,15

¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:5,6

⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Proverbs 3:1-3

¹ My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Daniel 9:4

4 And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

John 15:9-11

⁹ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Keeping the commandments is the joy and duty that Christ has set out for us as a peculiar people. King David's definition of what a perfect heart in a man, namely his prayer asking for his son, is very clear. Praying before the congregation he says:

1 Chronicles 29:18-20

¹⁸ O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:

¹⁹ And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

²⁰ And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.

His definition of a perfect heart is supported by his statement to "keep thy commandments".

Matthew 5:48

⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Christ requires that in life on earth, we submit to His process of sanctification that will work in us a mighty change to:

John 8:11

¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

The life of the Christian is only safe because it is continually hid in Christ our Savior. The Bible tells us in Acts 4:12 that there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, and that name has called us to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect. And if Christ is the one "by whom" we were made, according to 1 Corinthians 8:6, that makes Him our Father. If we are commanded to be perfect according to the Biblical standard and the example set forth by Christ Himself while He was on earth, the question is:

Why do the recognized denominations tell you that Christ did all the work for you, so don't worry, sin and confess, sin and confess, there's no other righteousness that you need?

The logical conclusion is that the Bible is wrong, or that the churches of today do not worship the Christ that tells us to be perfect and to follow the commandments of Jesus and His Father. For their god tells you Peace, peace, when our Lord has not spoken thus. The god of this world wants to have you believe that a Christian is still a Christian, even if they sin knowingly and daily, but this is not in the Bible, the book we all are to be judged by. We are not meant to keep sinning and asking forgiveness. The example left by the Great Pattern is a life of holy living, sinless and unstained. This is an achievable standard on earth through the power and grace of Jesus Christ.

I admonish you to put your sins down, study the Word and see what the Pattern is and what the Word has said regarding sin and transgression, and walk away from those cherished sins that will lead your soul to ruin. Every sin causes the angels of God to step away, leaving us to the power and influence of the enemy, and there is not greater danger than to be trusted to the power of Satan.

Make a stand for Christ, chose Him decidedly, and He will give you power to stop sinning and to walk in the light of His Truth. Amen.