

But Lord, I am not Worthy! Part 1

Key Scripture:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

Portion for the Journey:

As we long for a closer, more intimate relationship with the LORD, one of the enemy's primary tactics is to tell us that we are in some way defective or not mature enough to walk closely with the LORD. Satan wants us to believe that what God requires is too hard, that we just can't be "saintly" enough or that we are unworthy of God's love! I believe each one of us face times in our lives when we feel like second class Christians. There are many believers who are so debilitated by this kind of condemnation that they never know the joy that should come with their salvation. We will find victory over these fears when we know the Truth which proclaims our complete freedom and acceptance in the Beloved.

There are three words that are used in our church doctrines, that sound very intimidating, but truly understanding these concepts is a powerful basis for standing in faith to receive all that Jesus has done for us to make us right with God.

“Propitiation”

~~Jesus is the propitiation for our sin~~

Jesus did it at the cross as He bore our punishment for our sin

In His holiness, God cannot be reconciled with one who sinful and unholy. Propitiation is the act of appeasing the wrath of God and His just judgment of our sin by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus bore our judgment and stood in our place to suffer our punishment for our sins. He turned away of the wrath of God as the just judgment of our sin by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. 1 John 2:2; 4:10

"Righteousness"

~~right standing with God~~

...Jesus did it at the cross

When we are saved, we are made righteous in Jesus because God looks upon His righteousness when He sees us. We are called to clothe ourselves in the righteousness of Christ. This is called imputed righteousness and we are accepted in the Beloved. **Rom. 10:3,4,6**

"Justification"

~~just-as-if I'd never sinned~~

...justification is immediate when we believe in Jesus as our Savior

Justification declares a person to be just or righteous. It is a legal term that signifies acquittal in a court of law whereby a person is declared that God has no charges to bring against a person in a court of law. **Rom. 3:24,28**

"Sanctification"

~~cleansing & purification~~

...process of becoming Christ-like...this takes time

Sanctification is a progressive process as we recognize our sins, repent and seek to grow in Christlikeness. Sanctification is a life-long process of the Holy Spirit working in us to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9; Ps. 51**

Digging Deeper in the Word: What does God say about our worthiness in His sight

When we arm ourselves with His Truth, we can stand firm in our faith against the enemy's accusations and lies. His Truth is the foundation of our stability in Him and our feelings must not sway the certainty we have through His Word. It is His will us to live in the joy of His salvation and freedom.

1. Is it possible to be righteous in God's sight? Why or why not? Do these verses seem to be contradictory? What is the basis of our being righteous in God's sight? **Romans 3:10; Luke 1:74,75; Jer. 23:6; Rom. 5:21; 2 Cor. 5:17,21; Isa. 57:18,19**

2. What is the name that describes Satan in this passage? **Rev. 12:10**

3. Take a glimpse into God's throne room in these next two verses--note the role played by the enemy. **Job 1:6-12**

4. Turn to Zechariah 3:1-20. Can you picture yourself in this scene? What are the promises that God gives to Joshua? Who protected Joshua from the accusations of the enemy? Did God accuse Joshua of wrong doing? What do you think the significance of the clean garments represent? **Isa. 61:10; Eph. 4:24; Isa. 52:1-3**

5. Look at Col. 1:22,23. There is a word here that is very important. In the King James, the word is "**unreprovable**." Read the following definition of this word and then decide whether Satan has any grounds to accuse you. "Unreprovable means "unaccusable or immunity from charges." God is the One who justified us. If God declares us to be justified, who can bring any kind of a charge against us? He is the One who has cleared us of all guilt." —J. Vernon McGee's Thru The Bible

6. Read **Ephesians 1:3** in the context of chapter 1. What has He made us to be? Use this phrase in a sentence with your name! "I am accepted in the beloved!" Remember if God is for us, who can be against us?

What is the Lord Speaking to you?

Is He showing you any areas where you have believed the enemy's lies regarding your worth in His sight? Have these verses changed your image as God who judges vs. God who defends? Do not hesitate to write down the verses that really speak to you and review them until they become life within your heart!

My Response to the Lord:

LORD, it completely amazes me that You can know me better than I even know myself and You totally accept me and love me!! Lord, please show me any areas where the accuser of the brethren has been keeping me from knowing Your great love for me. Help me to believe these verses that show that Jesus is my righteousness! Help me to stand in the beautiful clean garments that He has provided for me through His blood.