

Reward of Righteous Under Old Law

“What happened to the godly people who died under the old law? Do they have the same reward as Christians, even though they haven’t obeyed the same conditions which Christians have to?”

Speaking of the death of Christ, the Scriptures say, *“For this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance”* (Heb. 9:15). If any of us is saved, it is because by the grace of God we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. *“Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand...By grace have you been saved through faith”* (Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8). By God’s grace, Christ died for all of us sinners (Heb. 2:9). His blood cleanses us from all sins (Eph. 1:7; 1 Jno. 1:7) and provides our access to God (Heb. 10:19-22).

The death of Jesus, as a sacrifice for sins, was not only for us, it was also for those who died under the old law. Notice again, *“A death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant”* (Heb. 9:15). He died for all those sinners who lived before He came to earth. The law, with its sacrifices, could not take away sins, could not cleanse from sin, could not perfect the worshippers (Heb. 10:1-4). As Paul wrote, *“If righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nought”* (Gal. 2:21). But those who lived by the law were cleansed by the blood of Jesus when He died on the cross: He died for them, also. And the language of Heb. 9:15 shows that their eternal reward is the same as that of the faithful today.

—Clem Thurman, *Gospel Minutes*, 11/83

Starting Anew

Thomas Edison’s laboratory burned in December, 1914. Looking at the ruins the next morning, he said, “There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew.”

Jesus came to earth to make it possible for all of us to begin anew. Paul proclaimed, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). That new life begins with being baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Worldly people, like the frustrated child, say, “I can’t.” Those in Christ say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Paul explained how that was possible. Despite quite a list of accomplishments in the Jewish religion, he wrote, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ” (Philippians 3:4-7).

Reliance upon worldly possessions will not help one start anew. The rich young ruler had done the right things externally, but he allowed money to be the god of his heart. Jesus urged him to sell all that he had, give the money to the poor and follow Him. The young man went away in sorrow. Anyone who would spend eternity with God must be fully devoted to Him (Luke 18:18-27).

Those who have lost loved ones feel all alone. When they start anew, they trust in God's promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5b-6). Those who make the Lord their Shepherd will never be alone, though surrounded by enemies (Psalm 23)!

Continuing to know the blessings of God's forgiveness requires a continuing walk in the light, which includes confession and the Father's promised forgiveness (1 John 1:7-9). A fresh start means one is forgiven, despite having felt unforgivable. "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 7:24-8:1).

— Gary Hampton, gospelgazette.com, 07/15

August 12, 2018

Eat What You Are Given

Have you ever had food on your plate but asked for something different? Have your parents ever told you to eat what is on your plate? I was always told to eat what my parents put on my plate.

Ezekiel was a prophet in Babylon. His mission was to preach judgment against Judah. He was to tell the Israelites of the southern kingdom (called Judah) that they were going to be fully conquered. He was to tell them that many would die. Many of those left alive would be taken as slaves to Babylon.

God says that the reason he is allowing this to happen is because of Judah's wickedness. They were a rebellious people. They refused to obey God.

In Ezekiel 2:8, we read, "But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee." God was going to give many words to Ezekiel. Ezekiel was to spiritually eat these words and digest them. He was then to obey God and preach those words. If Ezekiel did not preach those words, he would be considered no better than the rebellious people of Judah.

God has given us his word. He gave us the Bible. He expects us to study it and then obey it. By studying and meditating on his Word, we are spiritually eating it. If we do not then obey him, teach, and preach the Word to others, we are just like the rebellious nation of Judah.

Do not be like the rebellious nation of Judah. Eat what God has given you. Digest it. Then teach it to others. And if any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

—Mark McWhorter, gospelgazette.com, 08/07

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM

AUGUST 12, 2018

Coordinator.....Robert Hackett
Announcements.....George Clay
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Song Leader.....Adam Jolley
Opening Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Lord's Supper-Preside: Mitchell Brooks
Serve: Steve Anderson, Brian Smith
Ethan Leonard, Justin Draper

Closing PrayerBen Silcox
Greeter— Dallas & Paige Eddie
Greeter— Roger & Cynthia Draper
Count Offering.....Dallas Eddie
.....Kaleb Bush
AM Sermon — Luke Wilkins speaking
PM Sermon — Luke Wilkins speaking

WORSHIP—SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements.....George Clay
Song Leader.....Adam Jolley
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Opening Prayer.....Glen Reece
Lord's Supper.....Roger Draper
.....Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer.....Steve Anderson

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcements.....George Clay
Song Leader.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
First Prayer.....Mitchell Brooks
Opening Prayer.....Dallas Eddie
Closing Prayer.....Justin Draper

Prepare Communion for **AUGUST**

Lesia Leonard & Patsy Taylor

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME:

Opal Agee-Kindred
Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,

THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,
Ramelle Cole, Susanne Tisdale
Billy Halliburton

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

08/05/18

Wednesday.....	47
Worship Sunday AM.....	88
Bible Study Sunday AM.....	73
Daily Bible Readers.....	36
Worship Sunday PM (07/29).....	54

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aug. 26th- Fellowship meal

READING SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

01 Isa. 18-20	11 Isa. 50-52	21 Jer. 18-20
02 Isa. 21-23	12 Isa. 53-57	22 Jer. 21-23
03 Isa. 24-26	13 Isa. 58-60	23 Jer. 24-26
04 Isa. 27-29	14 Isa. 61-63	24 Jer. 27-29
05 Isa. 30-34	15 Isa. 64-66	25 Jer. 30-32
06 Isa. 35-37	16 Jer 1-3	26 Jer. 33-37
07 Isa. 38-40	17 Jer. 4-6	27 Jer. 38-40
08 Isa. 41-43	18 Jer. 7-9	28 Jer. 41-43
09 Isa. 44-46	19 Jer. 10-14	29 Jer. 44-46
10 Isa. 47-49	20 Jer. 15-17	30 Jer. 47-49
		31 Jer. 50-52