

The Missing Factor in The Majority Of Christianity

Book of Hebrews Part #3

Hebrews 9:24-28 - 24 This is why Christ did not go into a tent made by humans and was only a copy of the real one. Instead, he went into heaven and is now there with God to help us.

25 Christ did not have to offer himself many times. He wasn't like a high priest who goes into the most holy place each year to offer the blood of an animal. 26 If he had offered himself every year, he would have suffered many times since the creation of the world. But instead, near the end of time he offered himself once and for all, so he could be a sacrifice that does away with sin.

27 **We die only once**, and then we are judged. 28 **So Christ died only once** to take away the sins of many people. But when he comes again, it will not be to take away sin. He will come to save everyone who is waiting for him.

Hebrews 10:9-14 - 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will **we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Christ's Death Perfects the Sanctified

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, ***after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***

Most people who profess to be born again live a very pressured life for the Lord.

- They feel an urge to constantly "**better**" themselves.
- And that is where most of "**Christianity**" has gone wrong.
- Not everyone who claims Christianity is involved in true Christianity.

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- The truth of the matter is that **one who is saved according to Acts 2:38 cannot better themselves one bit.**
- **No other sacrifice** we make will make us better in the eyes of God.
- **The Bible says that Jesus' sacrifice was "once for all."**

That means nothing can improve upon that afterwards.

We need to read some verses in the Bible that are not stressed enough.

And these are the very verses that will **correct the misconception** of feeling a **need to better ourselves**.

Over the years in ministry and especially at the end of life:

- People think **there is no way for them to live a victorious Christian life**.
- **People fear death because they question their readiness of eternal life.**
- Once we receive Christ as Lord and Savior, **we have everything we need**.

Paul said, Ephesians 1:18-20 - 18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know* the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

We have everything God could possibly give us, right now.

- We just need to **see what He gave us**.
- Too many **do not know what they have**.
- I must preach these truths, **because so many have misconceptions**.
- I need to **preach the pressure out of people**.

Ephesians 1:2-6 - 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Redemption in Christ

3 Blessed **be** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed **us** with every spiritual blessing in the **heavenly places** in Christ, 4 just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should **be** holy and without blame **before Him** in love, 5 having **predestined us** to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved**.

- **We have received grace and peace from God.**
- That means **we are not at odds or at war with Him now**.
- Everything **between us and God is alright**.
- **By Jesus' sacrifice, God gave us grace and peace**.

Jesus is your acceptance before God.

- God made us accepted in the beloved.
- The man **Jesus Christ** alone is acceptable to God.

God said, "**This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased,**" when Jesus was baptized. **Matthew 3:17**

In His incarnation as a man, **Jesus is spotless before God.**

AND WE ARE ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED.

- **We are IN HIM.**
- **Christ alone** is acceptable to God, and we are IN HIM.

Vs 6 says **WE WERE MADE ACCEPTABLE**. He made us *accepted in the Beloved*.

- That means that **someone else did the work**.
- We **did not** make ourselves acceptable.
- We **never could** make ourselves acceptable.
- We WERE MADE **ACCEPTABLE BY GOD**.
- God adopted us to Himself Vs 5 **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself**

That is the reason we read, "**To the praise of the glory of HIS GRACE.**" Vs 6

God deserves all the praise because He gets all the credit.

- ***He did all the work. He made us acceptable.***

If we were supposed to make ourselves acceptable, or split the work between ourselves and God, then God would not get all the praise.

- Some of it would go to us.
- But the Bible says ***that the praise of His glory goes to God alone***.

The CHURCH will be to the praise of His glory because it is the one thing made totally acceptable by God's work alone.

Eph. 1:12 - *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

- In the world, you have ***"self-bettered"*** people.
- You have a ***"self-bettering"*** society.

The Bible doesn't say the world will be to the praise of God's glory.

If we were supposed to be pressured to better ourselves as Christians, we would see the issue of self-betterment promoted in the Bible. But we don't.

- *All we see is the Church being to the praise of God's glory.*

God made everyone in the Church accepted by putting them IN the Beloved -- Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:13 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

We are made CLOSE to God, not by our efforts, but by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:14 - For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has **destroyed the barrier**, (between us) the dividing wall of hostility,

Jesus Christ is our peace.

Ephesians 2:16 - and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Jesus did the work!

ULTIMATE PRAISE TO GOD is not accomplished by bettering ourselves.

- God cannot be given all the praise if we bettered ourselves.
- Ultimate praise to God is present when God did all the work.

HERE IS THE CRITICAL POINT THAT ALL OF YOU ARE ASKING AT THIS MOMENT:
Someone once asked me, "Why are we directed to live better lives if we are already acceptable to God?"

The Bible does indeed teach us to live better lives.

For example, in Ephesians we also read: Ephesians 4:2-3 - 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Why would we have to be told to do these things if we are already fully acceptable to God?

We **do** have to live better lives, and **that makes people feel pressured** to believe that **we are not good enough before God** unless we *"better" ourselves*.

The truth of the matter is the context is **NOT TO BETTER OURSELVES**.

Ephesians 4:1 - Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ - *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

- It is saying that **we are already fully acceptable to God**,
- By *the sacrifice of Jesus* -- **God's work**.
- **BUT WE SIMPLY HAVE TO LIVE A LIFE SUITABLE TO THAT FACT.**

That is far from saying **we must act better** *so we will be more acceptable to God*. The following verses teach the same thing.

Scripture teaches us: Philippians 1:27 - Life Worthy of the Gospel - Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel

Colossians 1:10 - so that **you may live a life worthy of the Lord** and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

All three of these verses say that **we are already complete and accepted to God**, and **cannot improve** upon that, **but we must simply ACT LIKE IT NOW**.

The Bible says: Colossians 2:10 - And in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

If we needed *bettering ourselves before God*, then we **would not be COMPLETE**.

- The Bible says that **we are complete in Him**,
- because **we are accepted IN THE BELOVED**.

You cannot be more acceptable to God than you are when you are in Christ.

- **BUT YOU CAN ACT MORE LIKE IT.**

We must do good deeds, BUT NOT TO BECOME MORE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

- We simply must **live a life that SUITS what we already are**.
- We are already 100% acceptable to God. **Just act like it.**

THIS IS THE MISSING FACTOR IN TOO MANY CHRISTIANS' LIVES!!

Hebrews 9:24 - For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

All Jesus' good qualities that make Him so acceptable to the Father **ARE OUR'S!**

Put yourself in the place of Jesus, and being as good as Him and as righteous as Him and as holy as Him.

- **Wouldn't it feel good to stand before God like that?**
- **THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS VERSE IS SAYING.**

WE ARE AS GOOD AS HE IS BECAUSE WE ARE IN HIM, AND HE STANDS BEFORE GOD FOR US -- OR IN OUR PLACE.

THIS IS THE MISSING FACTOR IN CHRISTIANS' UNDERSTANDING!!

There are two levels of Christians - - Immature Christians. Mature Christians.

BOTH OF THEM ARE COMPLETE IN JESUS CHRIST.

- One is no more holy than the other.
- **Both are 100% holy** because Jesus gave them HIS HOLINESS.

But the immature Christian does not understand this.

- Their eyes of understanding **are not open**.
- **They do not realize** that Jesus gave them **HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Seek God's righteousness: Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- **When you expect to sin, you are going to find a way to do it!!**
- These people **do not understand** that they are complete in Jesus Christ, **they invariably think** they must **IMPROVE UPON THEMSELVES**.
- **THEY REPEATEDLY SIN** and **must repent** every time over and over again.

But the good news is that, though they sin, **if they repent** they go back to the same **ONE sacrifice of Jesus every time**, and **they are renewed** to be *just as perfect as they were **when they were first saved***.

The same blood **we believed God for when we were first saved** *is the same blood we go back to* when we make a **mistake and sin**.

The mature saint of God knows **they are complete** in Jesus.

Understands that since **we have power over sin in Christ**, we **do not** have to sin all the time, neither do we **expect to do so**.

We come to a place in **Faith** Where we believe: Romans 6:14 - For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Both the **immature and the mature** are **100% righteous** before God.

- It's just that **the mature knows it**.

The task of a preacher is to preach to people **who they are**, when these ***people think*** **they already know who they are**.

Most people **do not listen to a preacher** tell them **who they are in Christ**, because ***they think they already know***.

They MISS **IMPORTANT TRUTHS**, because **THEY DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE!!**

The best way to **stop the Holy Spirit from working in your life** is to think you **do not need to learn anything else**, and that **you already know it all**.

John 16:13 - But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

The Spirit's purpose is to **GUIDE US INTO ALL TRUTH**.

- ***If we think we know it all, the Spirit cannot do what it is purposed to do***.

The attitude that we know all stems from a desire to glorify ourselves.

- We feel good in thinking **WE know everything**.
- And that **uplifts flesh and self**.
- **That is antichrist**, anything that takes glory from God and gives it to man.

Every man **DOES NOT** have a bit of God in him already.

- **Man is an alien to God** and needs to be reconciled to God by Jesus Christ.
- **When we are reconciled**, we're 100% righteous, 100% holy in **God's eyes**.

CLOSE:

You would think the world would break our doors down to accept this gospel!

- **The world would have to admit it's not as good as it thinks it is**, to accept the Gospel.
- **The antichrist spirit that began in man when Satan told Eve, "You shall be as gods," is still in man.**
- Let us never have that antichrist spirit in us!

Let us always lean upon Jesus Christ and remain IN HIM, *so that we are 100% complete and perfect before God!*

The reason so many have *backslidden and went back into the world of sin* is because they missed this **FACTOR**.

They thought **they had to become better before God**, and felt they could not do it.

- They went away from 100% righteousness, and they never knew it!

Don't let anyone fool you into thinking you are not already 100% before God.

- **Don't think** that you have no responsibility to ACT LIKE IT, either.
- Sin is still sin; we **MUST repent** and **sincerely seek God** to forgive you.
- **He once again makes us 100% righteous in His eyes.**