

IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE

No, bless your heart, you haven't done anything to hurt my feelings.

I would appreciate it, though, if you would give me a moment or two of your time. What I have to say *is* important and, who can tell, it might prove to be a wonderful turning point in your life. I well remember the day when, not only my outlook, but my whole direction in life was completely changed. What an experience! I've never ceased to thank God for it!

I once thought, as many people do today—perhaps *you* do—that one must keep the law, the ten commandments, to please God and be sure of heaven. The law, I thought, was God's rule of life, given to help us to be good and gain heaven at last. How wrong I was! In fact God's Word tells us again and again, in the plainest language, that the law was *not* given to help us to be good, but to show us that we *are* bad and need a *Savior*.

Romans 3:19 says that the law was given "*that every mouth may be stopped and that all the world may become guilty before God.*" Chapter 5, Verse 20, of the same book says that "*the law entered that the offense might abound*" and Galatians 3:19 says "*It was added because of transgressions.*" This is why we read in Romans 3:20:

"Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His [God's] sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Friend, if you want to be saved from the just penalty of sin, remember this: There is one thing that God, as Judge of all, expects from you. He expects you to stop saying things in your own defense. It is not sin that keeps men out of heaven, it's their attitude. God, in His love, has made full provision for sin. He paid its penalty Himself. But He has made no provision for a self-righteous attitude.

Sometimes, you know, the defendant comes to the place where his attorney says to him: "It will be to your advantage to plead guilty and throw yourself upon the mercy of the court."

This is exactly our position. How can we talk about our law-keeping when we are all so guilty of law-breaking? Keep defending yourself and God will *never* save you, for He will have no boasting in heaven—especially *false* boasting. But confess your guilt and throw yourself upon the mercy of God and He will graciously forgive and justify you through Christ. This is why St. Paul exclaimed to one of his audiences:

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man [Christ] is preached unto you *the forgiveness of sins*; and by Him all that believe are *justified from all things*, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38,39).

Does this mean that it doesn't matter how we live; that the believer in Christ has a

license to sin? By no means! Grace produces better living than the law ever did. In Romans 8:3,4 we read that Christ accomplished “what the law could not do”:

“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Similarly, we read in Titus 2:11,12:

“For the grace of God, that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Thanks for taking the time to read this. It is my earnest prayer that you will simply, but sincerely, trust Christ as your Savior and accept eternal life as the free gift of God, if you have not already done so.

“For there is no difference...for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him, for *whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Rom. 10:12,13).

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

—C. R. Stam

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