

PRICELESS TREASURE

Perhaps you have heard the story of the two youngsters at play, discussing their families. One asked the other: "Why is your grandmother always reading her Bible? I don't think I ever see her without it." To which the other replied: "I don't know, I've never asked her, but do you know what I think? I think she's cramming for her finals."

Strange, isn't it, that so few of us think of our "finals" in time. The great majority of people live for this life as though it were never to end and for the next as though it were never to begin. They have a vague hope that everything will turn out all right in the end, but foolishly race through life like the automobile driver who was lost, but too much in a hurry to stop and consult a road map.

My friend, are you one of the many who hope to get to heaven, but haven't taken the time to consult God's Word to find out how to get there? It's high time, then, that you were introduced to the most priceless treasure a man can hold in his hands: the Bible, the written Word of God. An old hymn says about this blessed Book:

"It shows to man his wand'ring ways,
And where his feet have trod,
And brings to view the matchless grace
Of a forgiving God."

This Book seems stern in so many ways and depicts God as the Holy One who cannot tolerate the slightest departure from perfect righteousness; who won't let down the bars even a fraction of an inch, lest His own standards of right be violated. It shows Him as the One who will visit terrible judgment on those who fail to come up to His standards.

But wait, that's not all. If the Bible insists that God is infinite in righteousness and holiness, and in His wrath upon sin, it also shows Him as the One who is infinite in love and grace. "*God IS love,*" says I John 4:8, and the Bible as a whole, and especially the epistles of Paul, prove that this is so.

And this is the wonderful thing about salvation as taught in the Bible. Salvation is not God letting down the bars of His righteousness to smuggle sinners into heaven. It isn't God, closing His eyes to the claims of justice to pardon sinners. It is rather God *meeting* the claims of justice Himself so that He might offer salvation to the sinner as the gift of His grace. It is God *paying* the penalty for sin (through the death of the Cross) so that the sinner might go free. And so by the Cross the righteousness of God is satisfied and the love of God gratified at the same time, "*that He might*

be just and [at the same time] the Justifier of him that believeth in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26).

No, when we who have trusted Christ for salvation get to heaven, no one will be able to say: “What! You here?” for at Calvary God met the claims of a broken law for us so that we might be *“justified freely, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24).*

The book that proclaims this peerless plan of salvation is certainly a priceless treasure and it will prove a priceless treasure too as you live the Christian life. If you haven’t consulted this blessed Book for yourself as yet, why not begin now? Look up the passages we have quoted above, trust Christ as your own personal Savior and experience the knowledge, the assurance and the joy of sins forgiven. “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).*

—C. R. Stam

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