

## WE'RE BETTER OFF

A young sailor-lad was trying to explain to one of his buddies how he had come to know Christ as his Savior, when his friend broke in to say: "You people always think you're better than others."

"Oh, no," replied the first sailor, "you've got that all wrong. We don't think we're any better than you are—but we're better *off*."

This is exactly how we feel about it. We born-again Christians are no better than others, but we're certainly a lot better off.

We're better off because we've faced the truth of God's Word about sin and salvation. There was nothing mysterious about it. We just came to the place where we finally admitted—to *God*—that we were guilty sinners in His sight. Then we were ready for the good news: "*the gospel of the grace of God.*" Here it is:

**"The wages of sin is death, but THE GIFT OF GOD is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).**

**"For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is THE GIFT OF GOD; not of works lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).**

God is very insistent that you can't *earn* salvation—and boast about it some day. You *must* accept it as a *free gift*; you *can't* work for it. God says:

**"To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, HIS FAITH IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Rom. 4:5).**

**"Being justified freely by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).**

The Apostle Paul was so thrilled to proclaim this message of salvation by free grace that, faced with terrible persecution, he said:

**"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the**

ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify THE GOSPEL [GOOD NEWS] OF THE GRACE OF GOD” (Acts 20:24).

My dear reader-friend, God loves you and Christ died for your sins 1900 years ago, so that He might offer salvation to you as *a free gift*. Won't you accept this gift? Trust Christ as your Savior and learn the joy of sins forgiven today. It's wonderful to be *saved and safe!*

—C. R. Stam

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*“The hope which is laid up  
for you in heaven....”*