CHRIST IS ALL WE NEED

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**DATE: 12/19/2018 Wed.**

**TEXT: I Corinthians 1:30; Romans 4**

**INTRODUCTION**

Let’s stand to read **v. 30**

In this one verse we find some Tremendous Truths

Of which, the most important is …

We all Need Jesus … and … Jesus is All we need

Paul states that Jesus is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption

God's Wisdom is revealed in Christ and His Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption

We not only see God's Wisdom as it is revealed in what Christ is to every believer,

But we also see that … **“Christ is All We Need”**

I want to preach on that thought tonight

**“Christ is All We Need”**

Let’s look at the 3 words the Holy Spirit uses in this verse

And how they apply to Christ being All we Need

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. OUR “PAST”**

As it relates to the word ***“righteousness”***

The root word of **“*righteousness”*** is the word ***“right”***

We are talking about Right vs. Wrong, morally

According to who? Truth is not *Relative*

You can’t make up your own Truth

But Truth is According to God’s Word

So, Now we can begin to understand what is meant

This ***“righteousness”*** refers to *being right with God*

**Ephesians 2:16 – *“And that Jesus might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:”***

***“Reconciled” –*** means *to be made right*

***“righteousness”*** *- Purity of heart and right living; conformity of heart and life toward God’s divine law*

And our verse tells us that Christ is made unto us ***“righteousness”***

Or to put it another way, in Christ *we were made right with God*

The first act of the Lord Jesus Christ in salvation is that of making someone right with God

It’s something that happens immediately when someone puts their faith in Christ as Saviour

The problem with lost people is that they don’t realize that they aren’t right with God

But if we *are* saved, it is something in our Past

It is something that as already happened

Let me explain some things, just in case

First, let’s look at …

**A. ‘Our’ Righteousness**

Turn with me to **Romans 4:22-25 – *“And therefore it was imputed to him (Abraham) for righteousness”***

***“Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;” “But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;” “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification”***

We are told that Abraham's faith was *imputed* to him for righteousness

The word ***“impute”*** means *to reckon, to set or apply to one's account*

Now there is something known as the Doctrine of *“imputation”*

*Imputation* speaks of *being given something*

It’s the idea that we do not have any righteousness of our own

It’s not that we don’t try to do right things

But our idea of what’s right, and God’s idea … are two different things

The Bible plainly speaks of man’s utter bankruptcy

We read in **Isaiah 64:6 - *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away”***

Even at our best, what righteousness we do possess is as Isaiah put it ***“as filthy rags”***

The word ***“filthy”*** speaks of that which is *soiled*

The word ***“rags”*** speaks of a *covering*

Even at our best we are as a filthy, dirty, soiled, garments

*If our righteousness is filthy, what must our sins look like to God!*

In short, we have no righteousness of our own to declare before God

What righteousness we have, falls far short of the standard and the level God demands

God demands Perfect Righteousness

We are all familiar with **Romans 3:23 – *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”***

The word ***“sinned”*** means *to miss the mark*

I think of an archer (We have a bunch of them here)

He pulls back his bow, aims, and releases only to miss his mark (Sound familiar)

But when he misses, it’s not a matter of shooting wide to the right or left, or missing because he shot high or low

He misses because the arrow falls short

The words ***“come short”*** mean *to fall short, be deficient*

He missed the mark because his arrow fell far too short of reaching the mark

Now there may be many things people do *right*

Yet, what is right, what righteousness we do possess,

Falls far short of what God demands (perfection)

Notice also in **vs. 23, 24**, it was Not to Abraham alone

***“Now it was Not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;” “But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed,”***

**‘Our’ Righteousness - Eph. 2:8, 9**

**B. ‘God’s’ Righteousness**

Now understanding all that, to put it simply, we are in a pickle

To be right with God we have to be perfectly right

But yet even at our best, …

… our righteousness is not enough to be right with God

Even at our best, we still fall short of God's standard

Notice again **Romans 4:6 – *“Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works”***

We are told that righteousness is *imputed* to us

Remember what I said the word ***“impute”*** means?

It means *to reckon, to charge to someone's account*

**I Corinthians 1:30** tells us that Christ is our Righteousness

That means that the Righteousness of Jesus has been charged (applied) to our account

We do not stand before God in our own righteousness

We stand before God in the Righteousness of Jesus Christ

***“Who knew no sin” …*** His Righteousness is Perfect

Notice again **Romans 4:24, 25 – *“But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification”***

Now I want you to notice the word ***“justification”***

The word simply means *to be declared righteous*

We have been *declared righteous* because …

… the Righteousness of Christ has been charged to our account

The Condition for this transaction to take place is …

… Faith in His Finished work

I think of the story of Onesimus found in the book of Philemon

Apparently, he was a runaway slave that had wronged his master Philemon

Some how Onesimus found his way to Paul in Rome

Paul wrote to Philemon (**v. 18**) on his behalf and said…

***“If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account”***

We are accepted by God because we are clothed in the Righteousness of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus is our Righteousness

His Righteousness has been imputed (Placed) on us

He is all I need to be Right with God

**Christ is all we Need to cover OUR “PAST”**

Next, we see the Work of Christ …

**II. IN THE “PRESENT”**

Not only is Christ our ***“Righteousness”***

But our verse says, He is also our ***“Sanctification”***

The Bible tells us in **I Peter 1:16 – *“Be ye holy; for I am holy”***

So, how do we do this?

Christ our *Righteousness* has saved us from the Penalty of sin (Past Tense)

And Christ our *Sanctification* is now Saving us from the Power of sin (Present Tense)

**A. So, How does this Work?**

The word ***“sanctification”*** speaks of the Process of being made holy, which results in a changed life for the believer

Our English word for *sanctification* comes from a Latin word which speaks of the act of consecration

**Consecration** means *being set apart for God*

In essence, *sanctification* is the act whereby we separate ourselves from that which is unholy

And separate ourselves unto that which is holy

It’s turning our Backs on the World and unto God

Repentance is a part of Sanctification and is a change of mind that leads to a change of action

It’s the process of becoming holy

But what changes our mind?

It’s the presence of Christ in us

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

One Sunday on their way home from church, a little girl turned to her mother and said, *"Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."* The mother said, *"Oh? Why is that?"* The little girl replied, *"Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"* The mother replied, *"Yes, that's true, honey." "And he also said that God lives in us? Is that true, mommy?"* Again, the mother replied, *"Yes."* *"Well,"* said the little girl, *"If God is bigger than us and he lives in us, shouldn't He show through us?"*

Let me put it this way, Sanctification is the Process, whereby, the God that lives within us shows through us

**Galatians 2:20 – *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:***

***and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me”***

God wants to *come out* in our lives and Sanctification is the process by which He comes out

We read in **I Thessalonians 4:3, 4 – *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:” “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour”***

The work of Christ Imputed as our Righteousness occurred in the Past and was something that happened immediately

The work of Christ Imparted as our Sanctification is something that is happening in the Present and happens Progressively

Both of which are the Work of Christ!

***“Righteousness”*** is a work that has taken place

And ***“Sanctification”*** is a work that is taking place

**B. Some of the Effects**

Now if we are deeply interested and serious about the work of Sanctification in our lives and becoming holy,

… Then we have experienced the frustration of failure and shortcomings

It seems that the harder we try to be holy, the more we come up short

Am I right? Here’s the reason

**Ill.** I think of the preacher who described how there were times he was feeling all holy and humble, but other times all worried and weak. He experienced great fluctuations in his spiritual life. There would be times when God seemed so close and his spiritual life deep, but he confessed that it wouldn’t last. He also admitted that one of the things that troubled him was in the matter of his failure because of besetting sins. There would be victories in his life at times, but the victories were interspersed with crushing and humiliating defeats.

Most believers, if honest, would have to confess to the same

We are to be holy, but oftentimes there is very little holiness about our life

Furthermore, becoming holy seems to be a process that is marked by failure and futility

\*But here is why our life is often marked by failure

*Sanctification is not a process I bring to pass,*

*It is a process the Lord brings to pass*

*Christ is our Sanctification and the purveyor of it*

As our text says - Christ is our Sanctification

It’s His life in us that enables us to become and be all we should be

It’s the very life of Christ *Imparted*

**To Impart** means *to give, grant or to bestow on another, to share something*

Oswald Chambers said – *“God does not give us power to imitate Him; He gives us His very Self! Sanctification is not something our Lord does in me; Sanctification is Himself in me.”*

**Colossians 1:27 –*“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”***

The Resources of the Christian life, my friends, are simply Jesus Christ

As we Yield ourselves to the very life of Christ in us

We should realize that complete obedience cannot be accomplished simply by willing it to be done or in the strength of one’s inner being

It will not happen simply because we “decide” to do it

This is because even believers are prone to sinful …

…conduct and thoughts, apart from the work and power of the Holy Spirit

In order to be obedient, we must rely on the power provided by the indwelling Holy Spirit

This, in itself, is an act of obedience, for we are commanded in **Ephesians 5:18** to be filled with the Spirit

***“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”***

*This doesn’t mean that a believer gets more of the Spirit,*

*But rather that the Spirit gets more of the believer*

Which is the whole idea of submission

Being filled with the Spirit is Yielding to His control

And in doing so, He Sanctifies us and makes us what He wants us to be

Jesus is all I need to be pleasing and holy before God

**OUR “PAST”**

**IN THE “PRESENT”**

**III. FOR THE “FUTURE”**

Not only do we see that Christ is our *Righteousness* and *Sanctification*

But our verse also tells us, He is our ***“Redemption”***

The word ***“redemption”*** used here is very interesting

The word itself speaks of *a final escape from all bondage*

This particular word is found 10 times in the New Testament and always refers to the Future,

Not to the Past nor to the Present

In other words, this *Redemption* is not referring to what Has Happened, or Is Happening, but what Will Happen

Again, let me say …

Christ our Righteousness speaks of being saved from the Penalty of sin

Christ our Sanctification speaks of being saved from the Power of sin

Christ our Redemption speaks of being saved from the Presence of sin

Christ our Righteousness was a work that happened Immediately (And if you are saved, is in our Past)

Christ our Sanctification is a work that is happening Progressively (And is ongoing now)

Christ our Redemption is a work that will happen Prospectively (will happen in the Future)

Jesus spoke of this Future work when He said in …

**Luke 21:28 – *“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”***

Paul also had this work in mind in **Ephesians 1:14 –**

***“Who (Holy Spirit) is the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance ‘until’ the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory,"***

And in **Ephesians 4:30 - *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”***

What is this Future Redemption that is referred to?

Listen to **Romans 8:23 – *“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”***

One of these days Jesus will return and every believer will be Redeemed, Delivered from all bondage

We read in **I Corinthians 15:52 – *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”***

The phrase, ***“at the last trump”*** was a Roman military term

In those days, the Romans used trumpet sounds as their signals

The 1st sounding of the trumpet told the soldiers *to strike their tents and pack their belongings*

The 2nd sounding told them *to get in line*

The 3rd trumpet sound, called the last trump, meant …

*“pull out and march”*

One of these days we will hear the *"last trump"*

It will be ***“Redemption”*** day for every believer

At that hour we shall be changed

We will say good-bye to all the Physical Pain, Limitations, and Handicaps

We will be delivered from the Earthly and Physical Bondage we have known

Paul declared in **I Corinthians 15:53-55 – *“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory” “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”***

The grave will have lost its sting because Jesus is our Redemption

At that hour, we will be Changed and Christ will be Implanted

His likeness will be permanently and eternally Implanted and we will for all eternity reveal His likeness

Jesus is our Righteousness, our Sanctification, and our Redemption

He is all We need, **Past, Present, and Future**

**CONCLUSION**

God fully understands the condition we are in

And despite that, He still made a way for us

**I Corinthians 1:30 – *“But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us Wisdom, and Righteousness, and Sanctification, and Redemption:”***

Everything we are is all because of Him

Let’s sing that Song as we Close

**“Christ is all I Need”**