

## I John 5; Lord's Day 23

### I AM RIGHTEOUS IN CHRIST AND AN HEIR OF ETERNAL LIFE

- I. The blessedness.
  - A. We believe what the Bible teaches as summarized in the Apostles' Creed (Lord's Day 7).
  - B. "Justification of life" (18) is to have the right to life in God's judgment (imputed righteousness).
    - 1. God declares that those who believe Jesus to be the Christ are acquitted, justified, have the right to live (forever).
    - 2. God's declaration is because Jesus was delivered unto death for our offences and raised for our justification.
    - 3. The justified stand before God as if he has never committed any sin, guiltless and in perfect harmony with God.
  - C. The gift of righteousness God is an imparted righteousness so we have life (our condition).
    - 1. This righteousness is imparted in regeneration, the Spirit breathing into us the new, heavenly life (John 3:36; 5:24).
    - 2. The present possession of this life means that we are heirs of eternal life.
- II. God enables believers consciously to appropriate this righteousness.
  - A. Humans constantly strive to be righteous before God because of works.
  - B. God determined that the only way to appropriate His gift of righteousness is by means of His gift of faith (1).
    - 1. This faith is the exercise of the spiritual ability to hold for truth what God has revealed in His Word.
    - 2. The first thing faith holds for truth is my guilt and my sin.
    - 3. And faith holds for truth what God declares He has done in Christ, so faith clings to Christ and says, I am righteous.
  - C. The experience of faith.
    - 1. Faith is reasonable, so we receive from the Bible the well-defined ground God has for declaring me to be righteous.
    - 2. Faith embraces and appropriates Christ and His work, trusting Him to be sufficient for time and eternity.
    - 3. Faith acknowledges that though I still sin, yet I am righteous before God because He justified me in His Son.
- III. What are the beneficial results of being righteous by faith alone through grace alone in Christ alone?
  - A. Faith has us see ourselves the way God sees us: righteous in Christ.
    - 1. Faith sees ourselves as still sinning, but also see what God has most graciously declared of us in Christ: righteous.
    - 2. We must be instructing our consciences to agree with God and His Word.
  - B. What a tremendous benefit to receive the gift of righteousness in Christ!!
  - C. This results in a peace which passes all human understanding.
    - 1. Peace with God is the experience of my righteousness by faith alone (Romans 5:1).
    - 2. Faith is a certain assurance that I am righteous before God by grace alone.