

SAVED, BUT STILL ACCOUNTABLE

1 Peter 4:17

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "I'm saved and that's all that matters." Christians seem to have forgotten that although they are saved by God's Gift of Grace and through what the Lord Jesus Christ has done, they are still accountable, still responsible to God for their lives, their actions and non actions. If some believers were aware that they were still accountable to God, they might not feel so confident. Salvation is everlasting, eternal yes, but every Christian will one day give an account of how he/she lived his/her life after receiving the Lord Jesus as his/her Savior. Seldom does one hear a sermon on believers being accountable to God.

I. CHRISTIANS BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD IS NO NEW DOCTRINE

1. Certain Biblical truths are often overshadowed, pushed into the background by emphasis on other Biblical truths.
 - Martin Luther did not invent a new doctrine, he dug through the scriptures and found the Biblical truth of being "justified by faith" and not ceremonies and rituals.
 - Justification by faith delivers the believer from the useless struggle to be good and trying to make ones self presentable to God.
 - Reformation happened when one man presented no new truth or new doctrine but just re-examined a long, buried, forgotten Biblical truth, that it is by faith through grace that one can be pleasing to God.
2. Justification by faith has been preached in such a way as it causes believers to throw all responsibility over on God and since one has been justified by faith, he/she has nothing to do but wait until he/she is called "home" to heaven.
 - Judgment is forgotten, bypassed and therefore not important anymore as faith and Grace covers everything.
3. The only worry the average Christian seems to have is that he/she might fall out of fellowship with God so therefore he/she must learn to keep up his/her fellowship in order to be happy.

II. EVERY CHRISTIAN IS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

1. There is little consideration of the moral condition of a person, whether he/she is obedient, faithful or what kind of Christian he/she is.
 - Just believing in Jesus is all that is needed to receive all the heavenly blessings.
2. The Christian's earthly life is in a sense preparation for the next and preparation is not completed when one becomes a believer in the Lord.
 - As the thief on the cross believed in Jesus and was told that that very same day he would be with Jesus in paradise, so many today believe that believing in Jesus or not is all one will be accountable for.
 - Faith in Jesus does settle forever one's sinful past and one is justified before God and one's name is written in the Book of Life.
 - Sadly, that is as far as many Christians go. They are not told that they are accountable from the moment of their belief in Jesus that they are accountable for the rest of their lives.
- **Romans 14:12; 1 Corinthians 3:13**
3. The quality of the believer's life will be affected if he/she doesn't know that he/she will have to give an account to God of how he/she used his/her time, abilities, money and possessions God has entrusted to him/her.
 - It is not the believer's business to do what he/she pleases with his/her time and possessions.

- God tests His Children, believers, Christians and the result of His testing will be seen on that great and coming day of judgment on which every believer will stand before the Lord and give an account of his/her life.

III. SAVED BUT STILL ON TRIAL

1. Every Christian/believer is saved, but many have forgotten that they are still on trial.
 - They have forgotten that the Bible has much to say about that "great day" when every person's work will be revealed.
 - They are so happy that they are saved that they have forgotten that God still tests their faithfulness, stewardship, service, use of spiritual gifts, etc.
 - Some are so relieved from being responsible that they act like young colts, snorting and kicking up their heels with no thought of being accountable.
2. God is not bringing severe judgment right now and people, even believers think that they can get away with almost anything.
 - If God were bringing judgment and one's sin was punished immediately, one would think twice about some of the things that he/she commits so readily now.
3. Today is a period of probation, ***"...therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his/her praise from God..." (4:5)***
 - ***Matthew 25:14-30***
 - The parable of the rich man and his three servants who were each given a sum of money to take care of and watch over until he returned.
 - Two of the servants used the money wisely and were rewarded.
 - One did not and was cast out.
 - Where might YOU fit into this parable?

CONCLUSION:

1. The believer is justified and saved from that day of appearing before the Great White Throne judgment where the lost will be judged.
2. The time will come for every believer to stand before the Lord Jesus and give an account of what they have done with their lives and deeds since they were saved.
 - Account will be given for what has been entrusted to each believer by the Lord.
 - What was done with the spiritual gift the Holy Spirit gave each believer.
 - What kind of service, witness has the believer given since being saved.
 - How obedient to the Lord has the believer been?
3. Christian, YOU are indeed saved but you are indeed still accountable to the Lord Jesus for your life.