

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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DID JESUS LIVE THE PERFECT LIFE FOR US?

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We ask this question on the basis of a false concept that some of our brethren have concerning Christ's perfect life. Some of our brethren believe that God sees the perfect life Christ lived, while we are justified apart from any works of obedience that we do. Brethren today teach that Christ's personal righteousness covers or hides our sins as a covering or a robe.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen Jesus did live a perfect life. He lived a perfect life so He could be that perfect sacrifice and take away our sins. In 1Peter 1:19 Peter says, “*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*” Without Christ being sinless we could not have our sins taken away.

Today our parents may use the illustration, “We have lived our lives for our children.” Does this mean that the children don't have to do anything in life after they leave home, because the parents have already done everything for them? No!! This means, the parents have provided the necessary things for their children to sustain them in life; food, clothing, education, financial support,

and a home. The same is true with Christ. His perfect sacrifice allows us to first, have our sins forgiven, and secondly, to enjoy the blessings of heaven.

Let's examine God's word so we can fully understand and appreciate Christ's perfect life in our justification.

First, in Romans 5:18 Paul says, “*Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*” Ladies and gentlemen sin entered the world by Adam. Condemnation and judgment came to all men. Why? Because all have sinned (Romans 5:12). Likewise, righteousness entered the world through Christ. His perfect sacrifice is the basis for us to be justified before God when we obey the gospel.

Secondly, in 2Corinthians 5:21 Paul says, “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become righteousness of God in Him.*” When we examine Jesus' life, He was not guilty of any sin. Our Lord

lived a perfect and holy life. This is how Jesus could be that perfect sacrifice for us. How was Jesus made to be sin? Jesus took the penalty and punishment of death for our sins. Jesus was made to be a sin offering for our sins. Jesus died for our transgressions and was bruised for our iniquities that we through obedience of the gospel could be righteous before God.

Thirdly, In 1John 3:7 John says, “*Little children, let no one deceive you, He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.*” When we practice righteousness, we are righteous. What are the results when we are not practicing righteousness? John says, “We are not of God.”

Friend, Jesus lived the perfect life that, through his perfect sacrifice, we could have our sins forgiven and have the hope of eternal life. But, Christ did not live the perfect life in place of us. He lived the perfect life for Himself. His perfect life is the basis for our justification, not a covering as a robe apart from obedience to the gospel.