

CHURCH NEWS

AN INSPIRING MOMENT WITH

Dr. Ron Bigalke

Righteousness to Make Righteous

Swiss evangelist and hymn writer César Malan always enjoyed sharing his faith in God with others. Malan asked a young woman, who was seated at his table, whether she was a Christian. The woman, Charlotte Elliott, became rigid with irritation, responding that she would rather not answer that question. Malan apologized if he had given offense. Nevertheless, the witness of Malan became a decisive moment in her life for Charlotte could not remove the inquiry from her mind. Three weeks later, she met Malan and told him that ever since he had spoken to her, she was wrestling with the thought of receiving God's acceptance.



has years of sinful habits and patterns to overcome. The subheading for the hymn was "him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). How wonderful to know that God receives all those who come to Him by grace through faith, and thereafter "He always lives to make intercession" for his people (Heb 7:25). The one who trusts in God has the promise of God's favor and peace, and with those blessings is God's enablement to live by his grace and for his glory. The book of Romans reveals many of

these magnificent truths, and how to appropriate God's division provisions so we can heed his holy and inspired Word.

Chapters 1—11 of Romans reveal the truth that God's righteousness becomes one's own when — by God's grace — one has faith/trust in the work of Jesus Christ upon Calvary's cross. When one is reconciled to God, it is both certain and eternal because the believer is in union with Christ and has the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. All those whom God "justified, He also glorified" (8:30). The primary theme of the book of Romans is the righteousness of God. Verse 18 presents God's holiness against the ominous circumstances of "the wrath of God," which even now is being manifested. All human beings know the existence of God as "evident" because the individual conscience and created order make Him known to all humanity (vv. 19-20).

Sadly, there are many who know that God exists, yet refuse to "honor Him

The Ten Commandments

Exodus Chapter 20

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
2. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the

sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

She wondered how she could gain God's favor. Malan replied, "You have nothing of merit to bring to God. You must come just as you are." Charlotte rejoiced at those words, and placed her faith and truth in Christ. Although she was feeble and weak in body, Charlotte possessed a wonderful imagination, in addition to being cultured and thoughtful. She loved music and poetry, which is evident in her writing approximately 150 hymns. One of the finest and most commonly known of her hymns recalls the Christian witness of Malan; the hymn is entitled, "Just As I Am" ("Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come").

The classic hymn says, "just as I am," which means that the new believer

can those who believe it, not also share the good news of God's free grace in Christ? First John 3:7 instructs as follows: "the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He [God] is righteous." What would it mean to you personally if you committed your cause to God, who alone judges righteously, and know that He will (in his own time) clearly make it appear that it is a righteous task, both to Himself and others. By God's grace and for his glory, heed his Word and you can be assured that He will turn "his countenance upon you," and make your righteousness to shine forth like the sun in its noon-day splendor (cf. Numb 6:26; Ps 37:6).

The same God who delivered sinners to judgment also gave his own Son for those who love Him, "to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28-32). The gospel of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ is truly good news! How can one not believe it? How

can those who believe it, not also share the good news of God's free grace in Christ?

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Esquire Fashion Scripture of the Week

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11 KJV

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