

## GOD'S APPROVAL

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## 'THE CHRISTIAN FAITH'

The God who has created the whole world knows all about us, our actions, our motives and our thoughts and of course He has an opinion about us and on the Day of Judgement this opinion will be public. It is a matter of great importance and interest to all of us to know what God thinks of us now and what His verdict will be when we stand at the judgement bar. We like to think that He approves, that He justifies us and will justify us and approve of us then. But we lose sight of the fact that God's standards are perfection. It could not be otherwise for He is a holy God intensely opposed to all that is wrong, mean, selfish and so on. Even one wrongdoing is sufficient to exclude a person from heaven, the place of perfection. As God looks at us He must be able to see us as perfect if He is to be in friendly relationship to us and this is true now as on the Day of Judgement. Consequently it is not enough just to turn over a new leaf, to do our best; to pay twenty shillings in the pound or whatever is the equivalent in decimal coinage. God must see no fault in us at all if we are to be justified on the Judgement Day or if He is to approve of us now, and the only way to achieve this is by forgiveness. For God's forgiveness is complete, He blots out everything from His sight and memory when He forgives. He puts our sin behind His back, as the Bible picturesquely puts it.

But God's forgiveness must have a basis, and that basis is Jesus. He is the only man who has lived a perfect life, in whom God was always well pleased as He contemplated Him, who alone has won the verdict that He is absolutely just and righteous, and if we are

to be justified by God and accepted by Him as righteous, we must be related to Jesus. We must be included in Him, in the same way as we are by nature included in the sinful human race which stems from Adam. We are physically related to Adam, or whoever you call the first of mankind, and we must be spiritually related to Jesus. Spirit though unseen, is more real than the physical. We must be related to Jesus through forgiveness in Him and this possibility is offered to us in the Gospel. As Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection, forgiveness of sins is to be preached in His name. Jesus is Lord, the boss of everything, having overcome sin and death at Calvary and been raised from the dead, and now reigns with authority over all reality. If we pray to Jesus we will be saved by being forgiven, so that God's verdict on us now and on the Day of Judgement will be that He approves of us, for there is nothing in us that is unforgiven for Him to see to evoke His disapprobation, because He will see us in our relationship to Jesus who has borne our penalty and has in every respect been approved and the proof that this is so, is that God gives us His own presence through the Holy Spirit as soon as we turn to Christ for forgiveness. God's spirit can only be present in the lives of those whom He approves, so we do not have to wait till the Judgement Day to know that He approves us when we have asked Him to forgive us for Jesus sake, for we have the sign and seal of this in the experience of His spirit's presence in our lives, through whom we grow in our relationship with God and grow in Christ-likeness of character in our outward life. So don't let another day go by without calling upon Jesus as your Lord and the boss of your life and God will give you the salvation that He provides in Him.



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