

**The Patio Pulpit For April 14, 2021**  
**“It’s Good News Extravaganza Night” (for a change)”**

Each week after I tape my sermons for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, Beverly and I watch them to see how they went. I have noticed that I occasionally have a slip of the tongue and use the wrong word or a wrong name. I hope you will be alert and recognize that it was just that, a slip of the tongue.

Many of us at Eastway Baptist go back 70 plus years and I can guarantee anyone that none of us have ever witnessed such horrific times like we are witnessing now. We thought the protests that erupted during the Vietnam War were awful, and the riots after the prosecution of Rodney King, and the LA riots in the ‘60’s, but they pale in comparison to what is going on in our nation today. The riots in Portland and Seattle and Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis, Minnesota and in many other cities are the worst our nation has ever experienced. The news is so consistently and constantly bad that I have actually curtailed most of my FoxNews watching.

I am not advocating an Ostrich-kind-of-approach to life where we bury our heads in the sand and pretend everything is just hunky-dorey. But I am saying that there are better places we can spend our time. I want to know what is going on in our world, but I refuse to let the world beat me down and get me depressed, and believe me, I have recently fought depression because of it.

I have never been a big fan of gospel music but the words of that old country gospel tune, “This world is not my home,” say something to me with all that’s going on in this not-my-home world. “I’m just a passin’ through.”

So, here’s some really good news for all who are in Christ. I’m calling our lesson tonight and perhaps over the next couple of weeks, **“The Good News Extravaganza.”** And I’m gong to present it in the form of points.

Point #1,

**“I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene.”**

That anyone can stand in the presence of God the Father or the Lord Jesus is pretty amazing. One must be qualified to have that privilege. And in the Bible the word qualified is probably best translated “justified.” The only way, and I do mean the only way anyone can be qualified to enter the kingdom of God is by being justified. So, no one can stand in God’s presence without having been somehow justified.

And just what does it mean to be justified? “To be justified is to be legally declared right with God by God Himself. It is an actual declaration by God that all who are in Christ are now considered as righteous as He is. We are not perfectly or actually righteous as Jesus is righteous, but righteous as Abraham was through his faith in the promises of Yahweh.

Our righteousness is imputed, or written down on our heavenly account. I wouldn’t carry this analogy too far, but we can think of God as the CEO of the Bank of Heaven, and every time He justifies another ungodly person, He makes a deposit of righteousness into their account. Like I said, I don’t plan on carrying that image any further than that.

There is no way I could ever wear out the word of God simply by referring over and over again to passages that have changed my life like the ones I will refer to tonight, beginning with this one. But I do use them a lot. <sup>23</sup> *Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,*

<sup>24</sup> *but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,*

<sup>25</sup> *He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

<sup>NAU</sup> **Romans 5:1** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

<sup>2</sup> *through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; (Rom. 4:23-5:2 NAU)*

My beloved, that is great news. Not only does that passage assure those who are in Christ that we have been justified, it’s also good news because that same passage tells us the Scripture, Hebrew and Christian,

were written with us in mind. <sup>23</sup> *Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,* <sup>24</sup> *but for our sake also.* So, it was written to provide the testimony and example of Abraham's faith and imputed righteousness, but it was written for us, with our names included. You and I have been declared right with God by God.

Point #2 in our "Good News Extravaganza," is this,  
**We will never have to wonder if we're going to make it.**

Our old Wednesday evening Bible studies covered world religions a couple of years ago and one of the outstanding and sad aspects of those religions other than Christianity, is that none of them could know for sure that they would after death be ushered into the kingdom of God or Nirvana or whatever they might call where they go after they die. Many if not most, belong to religions that offer no certainty of salvation at all. And the ones that embrace reincarnation are maybe the most pitiable of all of them. Who knows, their next incarnation may be as a dung beetle.

I have a few acquaintances who profess a pseudo-faith in Jesus who vehemently disagree with me on the matter of eternal security and I can't for the life of me figure out why they hate that doctrine so much. I understand they just don't see it in Scripture and that should be sufficient. But to hate the idea of being justified once and for all by the sacrifice of the Son of God just doesn't make sense to yours truly. To deny eternal security in my mind is the same as saying one is ultimately saved by works and not by faith. To deny that one is once justified and always justified is to say that one can lose eternal life which would make eternal life neither eternal nor life. As I have pointed out in other messages, for eternal life to mean eternal life it must literally mean that the life we are given by God on account of our faith in His Son is eternal. If a true child of God could lose his or her salvation because of some sin or sins they have committed, if they could lose their eternal life, we would be forced to remove eternal life from our vocabulary and write in its place "contingent life."

The most popular verse in all of Scripture, even though taken out of context, is John 3:16, which uses a phrase that no one can legitimately

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argue with, “eternal” or “everlasting life.” <sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

<sup>17</sup> *“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (Jn. 3:16-17 NAU).* To say that one can lose what is eternal is ludicrous.

Check this out. <sup>13</sup> *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

<sup>14</sup> *who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14 NAU)*

<sup>30</sup> *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph. 4:30 NAU).* Some may put no more merit on that seal than they do on The Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval but it is to their woe.

And finally, point #3 in our “Good News Extravaganza,”  
**The good news of the gospel teaches that God has satisfied Himself through His satisfaction with His Son’s sacrifice.**

Remember that old, old, very old Rolling Stones song, “I cain’t git no satisfaction?” Well, God can and He did. *Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom. 5:1 NAU)*

<sup>14</sup> *For He Himself is our peace, (Eph. 2:14 NAU)*

The fact that we have peace with God says that God is satisfied to the absolute power with the finished work of Jesus on the cross on our behalf. Here is another of my favorite verses that I refer to quite often, **1 John 2:1** *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

*<sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

(1 Jn. 2:1-2 NAU). And I close with this, the fact that Jesus could be the propitiation for the sins of the entire world speaks volumes on how satisfied God is even as we speak with His Son's Substitutionary Atonement. You will recall from my sermon just last week that the word propitiation means that God's wrath has been satisfied when He momentarily poured it out on Jesus as He hung on the cross.

Beloved of God at Eastway Baptist Church, may I be so cavalier as to say that you and I have absolutely nothing to worry about at any given moment in our day? Being that by the grace of God we are in Christ through His baptizing us into His body by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are signed, sealed and delivered.