



Hampden Heights Sentinel

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...and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ~2 Thessalonians 2:10 NIV~

The Pastor's Place

by Pete Maldonado, Pastor, Hampden Heights SDA Church

Lack of Faith

At certain periods in our lives, many of us have experienced a crisis in faith because of the difficult situations we were going through at the time. But the very difficult times in our lives are the times when our faith needs to be increasing! Quite often we believe that we must work on our faith by just believing in things we cannot see. I believe that we have a false sense of reality when we do that. Don't get me wrong, the Bible does explain what faith is in the book of Hebrews;

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

But I also know and believe that God does not wish for us to walk blindly, as some of us often do. Faith is something that we should allow God to develop within our hearts daily. I like the familiar story in the Bible wherein Jesus invites Peter to get out of the boat and walk on the water with him...in the midst of a storm. Peter has always seemed to me to be the naïve, overeager, overachiever type. He's like the kid who sits in the front of the classroom and raises his hand, hops up and down in his seat, and shouts, "Me! Me! Pick me!" to every question the teacher asks. Peter is far from perfect, but

he wants so badly to be perfect, he wants so badly to please Jesus and to prove his faith. When Jesus approaches the disciples' boat, walking on the water, overeager Peter thinks he should walk on the water too. So he asks Jesus to enable him to come to him. Jesus invites Peter to step out of the boat. Peter gets out, takes a few shaky steps on the water, then panics because of the wind, the storm, and the waves are still raging around him. Peter sinks. Jesus has to save him. Then they both get in the boat and the storm miraculously ceases. This is the point where I imagine Peter, wet and water-logged, traumatized by his near drowning, and humiliated for being told he had so "little faith," is thinking to himself, "Okay Jesus, couldn't you have made this a little easier? Couldn't you have made the storm cease before I stepped out of the boat?"

So many of us act in the same manner when we step out into a storm. We expect God to calm the storm before we step out. The very reason the storm is there is for us to grow in the faith which God intends for us to experience. Every difficult situation we find ourselves in is an opportunity for us to grow in the faith which God has provided for us. Faith is not something we develop on our own, by the successes we

have in our lives. On the contrary, it is the difficult times which we go through that helps our faith develop the character which Jesus intends for us to grow in. The Bible states that Jesus is the author of our faith, and also the finisher.

"looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

Hebrew 12:2

If we look very closely, we find that our faith is dependent on what Jesus does for us daily. He is in control of everything that happens around us and to us. Whatever happens, he allows it and permits it to help us grow. That includes the people that are in our lives who make it difficult for us on a daily basis. The problem we have is, we think we need to have a certain amount of faith. That type of thinking comes from a misinterpretation of the statement Jesus made about having the faith the size of a mustard seed.

"So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'"

Matthew 17:20

The Pastor's Place (continued from page 1)

Jesus did not intend for us to try to have a certain amount of faith within us. Instead he wanted us to be genuine in believing that he is the provider of our faith. He gives each and every one of us a measure of faith.

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

Romans 12:3

The Lord leads us always to have a measure of faith, which is needed to endure the trials that we will go through. Without faith, we cannot please God or endure the trials and tribulations that we will go through in this life.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

Watch against habits of sin. Keep a watch over the tongue. Watch for opportunities to do good and bless others, ever looking to Jesus, growing in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. If you want the higher life, you must now live the higher life in the lower life of this world. We are working for time and for eternity. A well-built life is formed by living upon the plan of addition, laying up one grace after another in good deeds, in faith, patience, temperance, benevolence, courage, self-denial. Ye are God's husbandry. Ye are God's building. Learning of Christ, you will not be a

jumble of opposites and inconsistencies—today sober and devout, tomorrow careless and frivolous. — {Ellen White, Medical Ministry, 217.2}

Our Job in this world is not to complain of all the trials, tribulations, or even the people that are in our lives which create trials and tribulations. Our purpose is to serve the Lord, to do God's will, and to allow our faith to grow with each step we take in allowing Jesus to lead us, even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

8 Steps That Will Radically Change Your Life submitted by Stacy Mclean

I would like to share with all of you an outline of a video seminar by Chrisitan Berdahl, that has been very valuable in helping me through some difficult times.

Start with prayer, asking God to open your mind as you view this seminar called "6 Days in Babylon," and to understand what his message is telling you. This is all biblically based upon God's Word, and the Bible texts are listed with each step to help you study what the Lord is bringing to your attention.

1- Pray

2- On Youtube, Type in "Christian Berdahl 6 days in Babylon."

3- Click on the first link on Youtube, and watch the seminar.

4- Pray again that the Holy Spirit will show you what you need to change in your life so you can have a stronger connection with God.

These are the 8 Steps that will radically change your life:

Step 1- Recognize The Problem- Do you see that you have a problem with the world and it's attractions in your life? (Isaiah 6:5) "Am I In the Faith?"

Step 2- Come Closer To God- Do you want to be closer to God, and further away from the world? Then let's pray like David did; 3 times a day, morning, noon and night. (Psalm 51:10) "Yes, I want a new heart."

Step 3- Repent And Ask For Forgiveness- Ask God to forgive you and help you change your life. (Ezekiel 18:30) "God wants to help us just ask."

Step 4- Pray For The Holy Spirit- Pray to God to send the Holy Spirit to you to reveal what is hindering your connection with God. (Revelation 3:18) "Quiet

yourself with your prayer and listen for His direction, don't hurry this time with God."

Step 5- Decide To Overcome- Decide today to move with intentions to overcome. (Joshua 24:15) "Choose and make a choice."

Step 6- Set Your Mind Against Babylon- Set your mind against Babylon (the worldly stuff that is getting in your way and confusing you.) "It is a No, if it is hurting your walk with God." Say to yourself, "I am not going to have it in my life because I know it hinders my connection with you, Jesus." (Psalm 101:3) God Says, "Don't bring things into your life if it is going to hinder your life."

Step 7- Praise God- Praise God for the new life you have just embraced. "Lord, I am all yours, I am surrendering to you. Please give me the power to resist, and get the junk out, and now I want to see the devil flee."

Praise God for the new life that's hidden in Jesus Christ. Acknowledge the victory in Jesus. The moment you acknowledge the victory, it just changes your life. (Isaiah 25:1) "God is faithful and He is true."

Step 8- Replace Evil With Good- (Romans 12:21) When we are walking and talking and moving forward with God in a real way, in a vital way- God can change your entire life. Now with all the time that the Lord will help you redeem, you will have time for your family. Read Specifically:

Revelation Chapter 14, Chapter 18, Chapter 21 and Chapter 22. (3 Angel's Message.)

I pray all receive a blessing from this seminar, and take the steps to develop a deeper connection with God. I have seen the Holy Spirit at work in my life, and if you ask, He will work in your life too!

Grace's Outpost by Ashley Richards

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31, NASB

This week, I heard a song on the radio (not a noteworthy event in and of itself—I hear songs on the radio all the time, obviously!) that sort of stopped me in my tracks. The first lines of the song described a beautiful trusting in God, and it was one of those songs I was sure I would love:

"Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from.
Oh, He is my song.
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide,
The ransom for my life.
Oh, He is my song."

But from there, it all went downhill. And my mom will commiserate with me, because I'm not sure there is one thing in the world that annoys her more. A repetitive song. I could've sworn I heard the band sing "You are good" for the next three minutes.

And I became incredibly righteously indignant. (Or, at least, to me, I could've sworn it was righteous indignation.)

This is a famous Christian band, here. Many Adventists may not know them, but many, many evangelical Christians do. Isn't "You are good" over and over and over again just a cop-out? It just made me disgusted that, with such an amazing platform to spread the Gospel, to ignite hearts on fire for God, all they are saying, is that God is "good." Couldn't they do better than that? God is a million times better than "good," in a million different ways! Sure, it may be hard to express it sometimes, but shouldn't we at least try?

And, because I don't want to sound pompous and arrogant and holier-than-thou, can't we do better than that? Can't we praise God better, use our voices better, use our talents for God better? As God's chosen people on earth, we have the distinct and singular pleasure of representing both Jesus and His love to those around us. What does it do to the

universe, when we don't honor God with our heartfelt praise? When we don't sing to the best of our ability, pray, write, preach, share, encourage, build each other up, to the best of our ability? Does it hurt the Kingdom of God? Does it hurt *us*? Is there any way that it might push others farther from Jesus?

I'm sure I can't have been the only Adventist to hear the term "a life of praise"—what would the Adventist church look like if we led a life of praise—if we praised and served God more than we worried about what others thought? More than we sought after fame, security, comfort, or success? What if praising God was *the* goal?

If anyone is guilty of forgetting to make Jesus a priority, of not praising Jesus the way He deserves, it's me. But can't we take a moment today, and remember why it's so important to praise God in the first place? This isn't about whose worship style is most important, who should be leading the church, or what kind of music affects which kinds of behaviors.

It doesn't even have to be *music*. How can you praise God today? Not just thank Him, or mumble songs to Him that you don't even know the words to, but how can you praise God today?

One definition of a Hebrew word for praise found in the Bible, the word *hallel* (the word our current-day "hallelujah" comes from), is said to mean, "to be clear, to praise, to shine, to boast, show, to rave, to celebrate, to be clamorously foolish." Since when does our worship *shine*? Since when does our worship *rave*? Since when does our worship *celebrate*? Since when is our worship *clamorously foolish*!?

I'm not saying our worship has to be loud or full of emotionalism, but can it at least have fervor and a little bit of fire? Can we *rave* about Jesus today? When we sing *hallelujah*, can we not take all the meaning out of it? Can we be excited about what Jesus has done for us, keep the fire of His love and salvation alive in our hearts, and reflect the good news of the Gospel in our hearts and lives today, and every day?

Recipe of the Month by Elizabeth Hill

It is summer, and blueberries are in season. Here is an easy dessert that will please all blueberry lovers!

Blueberry Cheesecake Crumble Bars

Ingredients:

- 1 (17.5 oz.) pkg sugar cookie dough mix
- 1/2 cup coconut oil

- 1 (8 oz.) pkg cream cheese
- 1 large egg
- 6 Tbs. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup blueberry preserves
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line 9-inch square baking with foil; coat with cooking spray. Prepare sugar cookie dough as package directs using coconut oil for butter. Press 2/3 of dough into bottom of pan.

Using electric mixer, beat cream cheese, egg, sugar, and vanilla until smooth.

Spread over cookie dough.

In bowl, combine blueberries, preserves, 1 tsp. lemon juice, and 1/2 tsp. lemon zest.

Spread over cream cheese layer. Dollop top with remaining dough.

Bake 25 to 30 min. or until done. Cool completely before cutting.

The Medicine Chest by John Manubay, M. D.

Back Pain

Back pain is a very common complaint to many health care providers. Your back supports the body, protecting your spinal cord and nerves, and is where muscles and ligaments are attached. While sprains and strains can affect the neck or any part of the back, the lower back is the most common site of pain.

Back pain can be caused by accidents, improper lifting, sports injury, excess weight, daily stress or tension, and poor sitting, standing, and sleeping postures. After an injury, back pain may be immediate or may be delayed several hours.

A muscle spasm is when an injured muscle uncontrollably tightens or knots up. With advancing age, muscle tone and strength decreases, making the back more prone to injury and aches. Doing regular stretching, and strengthening the abdominal muscles help in maintaining flexibility.

After experiencing a sprain or strain, cold compresses 15 minutes, four times a day should be used initially. Avoid the activity that caused the injury, and avoid heavy lifting, pushing or pulling, and repetitive bending and twisting. Rest is important but avoid long periods of bed rest.

Moderate movement will keep your muscles flexible and strong. Most back strains improve within 4 - 6 weeks. After 48 hours, heat may be more beneficial in relaxing the muscles. Over the counter pain medications such as Tylenol and Ibuprofen may be used.

One should seek medical attention if the pain is severe, is a result from a fall or injury to the back, if it produces numbness or weakness of the lower extremities, if there is any symptoms of urine or bowel incontinence, is accompanied by fever or signs of infection, or if accompanied by uncontrolled blood pressure.

Back pain may result from a lifetime of strain and stress. For example, lifting heavy weights or repetitive twists and turns at work.

Osteoarthritis occurs mostly after the age of 45. Aging causes deterioration around the vertebral joints resulting in vertebral discs being worn, and narrowing of space between the joints. Herniated disc is when normal wear and tear, or a significant strain causes a disc to rupture. It may become painful when excessive bulging of the disk puts pressure on nearby nerves. Sciatica is when the pain extends down the side or back of the leg.

Back injuries in the workplace are all too common. Back pain is one of the most common causes of disability in the work force.

Ways to avoid many back problems include changing positions often. Avoid excessive repetitive movements by taking frequent short breaks to stretch or relax. Avoid unnecessary bending, twisting, and reaching. Use a phone headset if you use the phone a lot. Lift objects properly, carrying them close to the body, standing as close to the load as possible, bending the knees and using the leg muscles to keep the back as upright as possible.

Your doctor may prescribe prescription strength anti-inflammatory medications such as Ibuprofen, Naproxyn, and Diclofenac. Side effects of these drugs, used long term, include gastritis and stomach ulcers. Meloxicam and Celebrex are other alternatives that can reduce pain and inflammation with significantly less irritation to the stomach. Muscle relaxants such as Flexeril may help spasm, however side effects include sedation, which can actually be beneficial at bedtime.

Lorzone is an excellent muscle relaxant that is non-sedating, and can be taken during the day or while one is working.

Rest and physical therapy is beneficial for acute and chronic back pain. Chiropractic care is a popular and commonly utilized form of complementary and alternative medicine, effective in adults for acute and chronic low back pain. X rays and MRI may be used if there is trauma, signs of nerve involvement, or if conservative measures show no improvement. Orthopedics and Pain Management may be necessary in severe cases where back injections and surgery may be needed.

Christ Our Righteousness submitted by Wayne Johns

This is a paraphrased and very condensed version by Wayne Johns, of the original "Christ Our Righteousness" by AG Daniels.

The central theme of the scriptures is Christ, our righteousness. Creation reveals Christ's wisdom and power for "by Him all things were created." Col 1:14-16. Adam's sin and all its awful consequences is told to us so that Christ, the last Adam, may be hailed as our Redeemer and Restorer. Rom 5:12-21. Death is set before us with its terrors that Christ may be exalted and glorified as the Life-giver, 1 Cor 15:22. We have disappointments, sorrows and tragedies in this life but we have a Savior that may be sought as our Great Comforter and Deliverer, John 16:33. The Scriptures lay before us our corrupt natures, yet Christ may be appealed to for cleansing, for He is the Lord our righteousness. Every truth in scripture, in some way points to Christ our righteousness. The scriptures clearly present how sinners obtain Christ's righteousness and the conditions by which it may be secured.

Righteousness belongs to the Lord, Dan 9:7 and He is righteous in all His ways, Ps 145:17. His righteousness is like the great mountain, Ps 36:6, it is everlasting (Ps 119:142) and God loves righteousness, Ps 11:7. There is no unrighteousness in Him, Ps 92:15.

Righteousness is the opposite of sin, and is associated with holiness, or

godliness.

Eph 4:22-24 "...Put off... your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." The fruit of the Spirit is all goodness, righteousness and truth, Eph 5:9. We are to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness, 1 Tim 6:11.

Heb 1:9 "You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness (*sin*); therefore God, Your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your companions." God is the source of righteousness and it is one of His divine holy attributes.

What is our personal relationship to righteousness? Is righteousness in any degree inherent in human nature? If so, how do you cultivate and develop it? If not, is there any way to obtain it? Finally, if so, by what means and when? Without God and His word, righteousness is a deep dark baffling problem. Trying to solve these questions, man has and can seek out many inventions. We need not be confused or uncertain about our relation to the righteousness of God. Scripture clearly states the truth.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Rom 3:23. We are carnal, sold under sin, Rom 7:14 and

there is none righteous, no not one, Rom 3:10. In our flesh there is no good thing, Rom 7:18. And if that isn't enough, we are filled with all unrighteousness, Rom 1:29. According to the Bible there is not any degree of righteousness inherent in human nature. In fact, the exact opposite, we are unrighteous.

God has provided a way by which we may be cleansed from our unrighteousness and be clothed and filled with His perfect righteousness. God revealed this to Adam when he fell and God has provided this understanding to fallen mankind ever since. Examples in scripture are Abel, Noah, Abraham, Lot, Zacharias and Elisabeth. Paul declares that the Gentiles, to whom he had preached the gospel, had attained righteousness. God provided the promise, and men and women all along the way who have laid hold of the righteousness of God have had evidence that their lives were pleasing to God.

How is this accomplished? What conditions is this wonderful transaction given? Were the times and conditions that some have lived in more favorable to righteousness? Could it be righteousness was reached due to some special and superior qualities inherent in those who reached a high level of godliness? NO! They were people just like us. 2 Pet 2:7-8 says "And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)." They all received righteousness. That is and always has been the only way it is possible for any human to secure righteousness since Adam sinned.

The New Testament emphasizes being made righteous. Rom 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "the just shall live by faith.'" The gospel reveals to men the perfect righteousness of God, the way that righteousness is obtained by sinful men, [faith].

Rom 3:20-22 "Therefore by the deeds [works] of the law no flesh will be justified [accounted righteous] in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law [works of the law] is revealed, being witnessed [approved, accepted] by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe." In the beginning of this verse Paul shows the part the law takes in the problem of justification, "the knowledge of sin." The knowledge of sin is not deliverance from sin. The law points out sin and declares the whole world is guilty before God, Rom 3. The law cannot deliver us from sin. (continued page 6)

Christ Our Righteousness (continued from page 5)

No effort of the sinner, no matter how sincere, to obey the law, can cancel his guilt or bring to him the righteousness of God.

Righteousness according to Paul is "by faith of Jesus Christ... whom God has set forth to be an atoning sacrifice through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Rom 3:22-25.

It is faith in the blood of Christ that all the sins of believers are canceled, and the righteousness of God is put in the believers "bank" account. What a fantastic transaction! What demonstration of love and grace! A man is born in sin, filled with all unrighteousness. He has inherited unimaginable evil in an environment that is wicked, yet the love of God shines from the cross of Calvary and reaches the heart of man. When he yields, repents, confesses, and by faith, claims Christ as his Savior, he is instantly accepted as a child of God. All his sins are forgiven, his guilt canceled and he is accounted righteous and stands approved, justified before the divine law. Amazing, a miraculous change takes place in a moment. This righteousness is by faith.

Paul asks the question, "what did Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, find?" Rom 4:1. We would say Abraham found righteousness, but how? With

what method? Paul goes on. If Abraham were accounted righteous by works, he would have much to glory about to man but not before God, Rom 4:2. Paul, by suggestion, implies righteousness by works. Is that the way by which we obtain righteousness? Scripture says Abraham believed, and his belief was counted to him for righteousness, Rom 4:3. Righteousness is obtained by faith, not works!

Now Paul proceeds to show that belief is the only way anyone else can obtain righteousness. Rom 4:5. "To him that works not, but believes on Him (Jesus) that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." What a gift, what kindness, what great compassion. Jesus, who is righteous in all His ways, offers His own perfect righteousness to any and every poor, weak, helpless, hopeless sinner who will but believes what Jesus says. "To him that works not, but believes on Jesus ... his faith is counted for righteousness."

So important is this point that Paul continues through the rest of Romans 4 to restate and repeat, to press home this idea. Verse 6 "Even David also describes the blessedness of man to whom God gave righteousness without works." Verse 9 "We say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness." Verses 21-25 "Being fully persuaded that what Jesus promised, He is able to perform and therefore it was given to him for righteousness."

Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was given to him; but for us also, to whom it will be given, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our sins, and was raised again for our justification (righteousness).

Jesus is the only way out from sin, guilt and condemnation, taking us to righteousness and deliverance from certain death. Righteousness by faith expresses a wonderful transaction that our intellect can grasp. This great gift that God gives is for mankind. Righteousness by faith is of the greatest importance and greatest interest to our human family. The law of God demands righteousness, for all of us are under its jurisdiction. We have all broken the law and are by ourselves incapable of being righteous, which the law demands. By our transgression we stand condemned, and the penalty must be paid. It is death. This debt demands our life, and nothing we can do can remove that condemnation. What are we to do? Is there any way out of this dilemma? Is all hopeless? NO!

The righteousness of God without the law is shown as witnessed, approved and accepted by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God which is **by the faith** of Jesus Christ to all and on all them that believe, Rom 3:21-22. The only way of meeting the demands of the law is "by faith."

This is a problem to the natural unilluminated mind, because the law requires obedience. It demands righteous deeds in the active Christian life. So how can these demands be met by faith instead of works? Rom 3:24-25 "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation [an atoning sacrifice] through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission (forgiveness) of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Rom 3:24-25.

Our awful problems have a marvelous solution, which was provided by an infinite; all wise and compassionate Father who loves us. This is only found in the gospel of Christ. By faith the sinner, who has so grievously wronged and offended God, can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account. Christ's righteousness is accepted in the place of man's failure.

Christ came as our Redeemer, our Substitute, taking our place in the conflict with Satan and sin. He was tempted in all points as we are, but He never sinned. He loved righteousness and hated sin. His life of perfect obedience met the highest demands of the law. The greatest news is that God accepts Christ's righteousness in the place of our failure and our unrighteousness!

(continued on page 7)

Christ Our Righteousness (continued from page 6)

God receives, pardons, justifies and loves us, the sinner, as He loves His Son. No wonder Paul was excited to tell the whole world that it was the love of Christ which kept him in his labors, and Paul counted it a privilege and joy to suffer the loss of all things, that he might gain Christ and stand clothed in His righteousness, which was given to the sinner through faith. Christ then works through us to do His good pleasure.

Faith takes the place of works and is accounted righteousness. All believers should understand this truth. It must be a personal experience. Cease your own works, efforts and struggles and enter into calm, trusting, living faith in the merits, the obedience, the righteousness of Christ. Present these to God in the place of our failures. Joyfully accept the pardon and justification granted and experience the peace and joy the marvelous transaction brings to your heart. Being accounted

righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 5:1.

This simple way of righteousness seems so hard for the natural, carnal heart to find and accept! Paul had great sorrow that Israel missed the way so fatally. Rom 9:31-32 "Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by their own works of the law." Paul goes on to say in Rom 9:30 "Yet, the Gentiles that did not follow after righteousness, received righteousness by faith."

The real failure of the Israelites was; Rom 10:3-4. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law [the One to whom the law points] for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Paul concludes his comments by saying the word is in your own mouth, and in your heart, the word of faith that Paul was preaching about, if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and you will be saved. With the heart, man believes righteousness. With the mouth, confession is made to salvation. Rom 10:8-10 (paraphrases)

Righteousness is not a theory. Some may hold a theory about it, but are ignorant of God's righteousness and go about to establish their own righteousness. Righteousness by faith is a transaction, an experience. Submit to the righteousness of God. It is a change of standing before God and His law.

It is a regeneration, a new birth. There is no hope for the sinner without this change. We are condemned under God's changeless, holy law and its penalty hanging over our head without faith.

Bring righteousness by faith into your heart and lives by the power of God. Indeed, we can say Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name! The angels and inhabitants of unfallen worlds hallow His name. When we pray, hallowed be Your name, we are asking that it be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. You are God's child, pray that you do not dishonor His worthy name. In all we do we show God's name, possess His character. You cannot do that unless your life and character is in harmony with God. This you can only do through the acceptance of grace and righteousness of Christ.

Notable Quotes selected by Bob Kondracki

The Christian's Bible is a drug store. Its contents remain the same, but the medical practice changes.
~Mark Twain~

Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them.
~Ann Landers~

Force is all-conquering, but its victories are short-lived.
~Abraham Lincoln~

A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves.
~Bertrand de Jouvenel~

Where facts are few, experts are many
~Donald R. Gannon~

Many highly intelligent people are poor thinkers. Many people of average intelligence are skilled thinkers. The power of a car is separate from the way the car is driven.
~Edward De Bono~

My riches consist not in the extent of my possessions, but in the fewness of my wants.
~J. Brotherton~

Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.
~Marilyn vos Savant~

Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living, the other helps you make a life.
~Sandra Carey~

A somebody was once a nobody who wanted to and did.
~John Burroughs~

The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.
~Unknown~

It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare.
~Mark Twain~

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The Children's Page by Ashley Richards

Do you have a big family? If you don't have very many brothers or sisters, do you at least have quite a few cousins? Maybe that will help you imagine what it must've been like to be a part of the family in this month's puzzle! I'm sure you've probably heard of them, but all of these people in the puzzle below are family, mommies and daddies, grandpas and grandmas, brothers and sisters. All the names are jumbled up, though, so if you want to figure out what their names are, you'll have to unscramble the letters to find out!

- 1. ADHJU _____
- 2. AHLE _____
- 3. AND _____
- 4. ASEU _____
- 5. BACQJ _____
- 6. BENURE _____
- 7. DGA _____
- 8. ELCHRA _____
- 9. NIADH _____
- 10. HERAS _____
- 11. KAHEBRE _____
- 12. MINAJENB _____
- 13. PHATALIN _____
- 14. PSEOJH _____
- 15. RACHASSI _____
- 16. RMHBAAA _____
- 17. SHAAR _____
- 18. SONEIM _____
- 19. VILE _____
- 20. ZUULNEB _____