

August 2, 2012



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This morning we continue our examination of what we believe as Anglican Christians. Last week we examined the issue of Free Will and how we as Christians are free to reject the love of Christ. Today we look at Article 11 of the Articles of Religion on the Justification of Man...

"We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deserving. Wherefore that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort; as more largely is expressed in the Homily of Justification."

This is the third article on Sin and Salvation—#9 was the fall and recognizing that we are fallen creatures in need of Christ & #10 is that we have free will to reject the Saving Grace of Jesus offered to us from the Cross. The doctrine of justification (Article 11) teaches that God has dealt with sin, punishing Christ for it on the cross of Calvary. Because of Jesus' selfless act on the cross we do not need to do anything to "win" our salvation, because Jesus has given that to us freely. That is a difficult concept for us to accept, especially in America where we have such a strong sense of individualism - an "I can do it myself, thank you very much" sort of attitude. Because we are justified before God, we do not need to earn God's favor because Jesus already did it. We do not need to atone for our sins, because Jesus received the punishment due to us. We do not need to be good to receive Salvation because God accepts the goodness of Jesus in our place! When someone asks you..."Are you saved?" the answer is "Yes, from the Wrath of God because Jesus received that for us." For more detail on this I recommend R.C. Sproul's Saved from What.

St. Paul spoke to this in his epistle to his assistant Titus: **"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being**

justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:4-7 ESV)

Not only has God dealt with our sin by justification. He also continues to work with us for His good purpose. He prepares us, accepts us and changes us. In Article 10, we read that *'the grace of God in Christ goes before us so that we may have a good will.'* Even my first vague thoughts about God, and my first prayer asking if he even existed were not really my doing, but the results of His working in me. The doctrine of justification teaches that for Christ's sake God accepts me as righteous and perfect. Article 10 goes on to describe the state of the redeemed Christian: now saved and forgiven but still depending on God to enable him to live a good life and grow in holiness not to win salvation but to respond to God's love—a love more deep and profound than we could ever imagine—a love that redeems the sinner and justifies a believer.

Godspeed,

Bishop Menees

Diocesan Calendar

- August 3rd-5th** - Anglican Women's Retreat
- August 5th** - Bishop @ St. Timothy's in Bishop
- August 9-10** - Provincial Hispanic Ministry Conference. at the Cathedral, "Caminemos Juntos"
- August 11th** - Standing Committee
Deacon's Day @ St. James Cathedral
- August 12th** - Bishop @ Christ Church in Oakhurst
- August 17-19th** - Men's Retreat @ ECCO
Bishop Eric and Fr. Van
- August 18th** - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.
- August 19th** - Bishop @ St. Martin's in Fresno
Laotian and Spanish Congregations
- August 21st** - Yosemite Deanery Clericus
- August 26th** - Bishop @ Church of Resurrection in Placentia
- September 1st** - Gathering of Mission Clergy
- September 8th** - DOK Mini-Fall Retreat
@ Jesus Our Savior in Modesto
- September 29th** - Daughters of the Holy Cross
Fall Gathering @ St. Mary's in Fresno
- October 5-7th** - Clergy Wives Retreat @ ECCO
- October 27th** - Honored Women's Luncheon
- October 29-31st** - Clergy Retreat @ ECCO
- November 2-3** - Diocesan Convention @ St. James Cathedral
- December 1st** - Deacon's Day @ St. James Cathedral

April 29th - May 1st - Clergy Conference

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