

## Dying Saint Take Courage!

As you already know, not a single human being is acceptable to God on the basis of his own goodness. (God is absolute in His righteousness and must punish all sin.)

But take courage as I remind you of God's sure gospel promise.

God sent His only begotten Son to take the punishment for sins.

*All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. (Isaiah 53:6)*

*And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (1 John 2:2)*

Jesus' death satisfied (propitiation) the absolute righteous demands of God for the sins of the whole world. (This includes your sins!)

In case you ever have moments of doubt, you should also understand that this gift of God demonstrates that He loves you. And He loved you even when you were an enemy of His, living life as if you were the boss of it.

*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

This means that not only you, but every single sinner on the face of the earth should believe that God loves them and thus, He cares about each one of them personally.

*As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, (Ezekiel 33:11)*

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)*

*Everyone who believes into Him receives remission of sins. (Acts 10:43) (remission = complete removal)*

To show that Jesus' work is the only thing that makes this possible and that God extends the promise to everyone, He included the account of the thief on the cross. He lived in rebellion to God all his life. But in the last moments of his life, he said to Jesus, "**Remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**" Then Jesus promised, "**Tonight you will be with Me in paradise!**" (Luke 23:42-43)

So, if you ever have moments of doubt, do what I often do myself- rehearse God's sure promise and Jesus' standing invitation. Think and say to yourself the following:

-Even if I currently lack assurance, Jesus already proved that He loves me by dying to take my punishment!

-He has promised to remit all my sins if I simply look to Him as a bankrupt beggar and stand on His promise.

-He has invited me to come and find perfect rest for my soul.

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)*

*And Jesus cried out again (it is finished!) with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, (Matt 27:50-51)*

*<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I AM the resurrection<sup>A</sup> and the Life.<sup>B</sup> Concerning the one who is believing into Me, though he may die, he will Live.<sup>A</sup> <sup>26</sup>And all those who Live and are believing into Me will NEVER, EVER die"<sup>B</sup> (John 11:25-26)*

(I am the resurrection<sup>A</sup>-- you will be raised after you die. I am the Life<sup>B</sup>—you already possess eternal life and you will never ever die because you have been born from above.)