

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 4/12/10

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, Yahweh-Tsidkenu, "The Lord Our Righteousness"

Verse of the Week:

This is the name by which He will be called: "The Lord Our Righteousness." Jeremiah 23:6

Like a team that had traded away all its high draft picks of the future, the kingdom of Judah was heading toward disaster. It had good kings and bad kings, reformations and counter reformations. But overall, Judah was headed morally and spiritually downward. Even the priests and prophets were corrupt, falling into the same moral depravity as the heathens around them. Political unrest, oppression, and violence abounded. The day of Yahweh's grace had almost expired. Jeremiah predicted the invasion of Jerusalem by foreign armies and captivity for God's people. Yet, all was not lost—for ultimately Jeremiah predicted a great King in the line of David would sit upon the throne of a restored Israel. His name would be Yahweh-Tsidkenu or "The Lord Our Righteousness."

Modern man conceives of God as holding a scale upon which he balances our rights and wrongs; however, man never knows how many good deeds are enough to outweigh the evil deeds he has done. Man has good reason to worry, for deep inside he knows he does not measure up to the standards of a Holy God. "How can a mortal be righteous before God?" Job asked (Job 9:2). Paul answers in Romans 3:10, "There is no one righteous, not even one." He concludes, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23). It is abundantly clear that no man is naturally capable of standing righteously before a holy, just, and perfect God. Our God is satisfied with no less than perfection, absolute obedience, and righteousness—100 percent of the time! He will not overlook our sins, for the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

But God has done something to satisfy both His holiness and His justice. He provides the righteousness! Jesus Christ is the Righteous One of God, sent to live a perfectly righteous life before us and to die in payment for our sins! The Righteous One suffered for the unrighteous (1 Peter 3:18)! "God made Him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21)! Can you even imagine such a thing? Never in our wildest dreams could we imagine that a perfectly righteous God would become the sin offering for sinful humans, and give salvation free of charge to all who put their trust in Him!

The great error of Israel (and of America) was that the nation refused God's offer. We seek to present to God our own righteousness—of which we have none (Romans 3:10). All who attempt to make themselves righteous are hopelessly lost in sin. No good deeds, religious rituals, gifts to worthy causes, or other deeds will suffice to pay for sin. May we stop trying to be righteous and accept the righteousness of Yahweh-Tsidkenu on our behalf!

Time Out:

- (1) How do you see yourself in relation to God?
 - Righteous on my own merits and qualified for heaven.
 - Better than most, probably qualified for heaven.
 - Some good, some bad points; hoping for heaven.
 - Not too good, probably will go to hell.

- Absolutely a bankrupt sinner, deserving of hell.
- (2) How does God see you in your own righteousness?
- Isaiah 53:6
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - Romans 3:10
- (3) When we accept Jesus' sacrifice on the cross in payment for our unrighteousness, how does God see us?
- Hebrews 10:14
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- (4) According to the following verses, who does God justify (count as righteous)?
- Romans 3:26
 - Romans 4:5
 - Romans 10:4
- (5) Praise God for providing the absolute righteousness of Jesus Christ for us!