

“UNBELIEF” IN THE MERITS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

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The following article is found in the *Insight for Today Study Bible*, the life-long work of Drs. Andrew Starks and Henry Harbuck, scheduled for release in March 2007. Fellow collaborator, Dr. Malcolm Lavender, is a Greek scholar and prolific writer, having penned more than five books to date. An adjunct professor at Omega Bible Institute & Seminary, he authored much of the following from the Study Bible.

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(A short treatise exposing the mistakes of Reformation and Calvinistic theology)

In *unbelief* Reformation and Calvinistic systems of theology reject the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to save from all sin in the here and now. These zealots vehemently deny the possibility of living above sin in this life; thus, essentially most of the Christian world believes *their* extreme doctrine. And if this is doubted, ask your neighbor, “Is it possible to live free from sin in this life?”

These Calvinistic teachers contend for an “unconditional security” in which the believer is saved, though *in* sin. But that sin and *faith* (noun form of believe) can never coexist in the life of the believer, we note the following.

A corpse, one dead in sin, cannot partake of the *in Christ* life. Reconciliation while *in sin* stands as an impossibility.

It is impossible that a corpse could be *in Christ*! One sin in the Garden of Eden brought death to the human race. The Apostle Paul affirms this truth in Romans 5:18. He says:

“...by one sin [judgment came] unto all conceivable men unto condemnation...”

From the fall, three mighty truths come to view.

First, sin and condemnation cannot be separated as the advocates of the “sinning Christian” purport. They are claiming that people are saved from condemnation, but not saved from sin. Sin and Condemnation stand together as cause and effect, act and penalty.

Second, one sin was the cause for removal from Eden; likewise, no sinner can be *in Christ* though he may claim to be under grace. A holy God can neither countenance sin nor fellowship a fallen, disobedient nature, though He is propitious and merciful.

Third, sin in Eden brought death. This death was immediate or spiritual, and imminent or physical. Thus, separation from god came upon the whole race. Since sin necessarily brings death, it is not possible then that a corpse may be *in Christ* as the Theological Morticians would have us believe!

But their unbelief in the *merits* of the blood of the Savior to remove sin now would have a corpse or a sinner unchanged *in Christ*. Amazingly such is called faith, grace, and security. Yet, the absence of truth is

so utterly pronounced. This is deception, unbelief! But unbelief in the merits of the shed blood to save completely in the here and now would have it so.

Unbelief in the merits of the blood to transform sinners to life in Christ and righteous living is grounded in their erroneous view of the *purpose* of the atonement. They tell us what Christ did for us, while being in *unbelief* that He does anything IN us. Certainly Christ did something *for* us, but just as certain, He did something *in* us! Thus, it is not either/or, it is both/and!

Those who are *in* Christ then have passed over into another sphere, another kingdom and necessarily another way of life, where sin is not a part of life. No unbeliever or unclean person, whatever the claim, may be partaker of this life in Christ; for this is life wrought from death by no other than the mighty hand of God! The *in* Christ life is not grounded in mere forensic pronouncements; but in the transcendent merits of the shed blood of the Son of God. The *in Christ* ones are “delivered out of the authority of darkness and transferred (Gk. *metestesen*) into the kingdom of the Son.....”

This was not the transfer of the sinful person that was, only now part sinner, part saint; but these were made fit for the kingdom into which they were transferred.

What a Savior! By the miracle and power and *merits* of His own blood, Jesus inducts a new creation who is *in Christ*!

This is the merit of the blood!