

Following are a few excerpts from an excellent article written by Dean Hough in the May 2008 issue of Unsearchable Riches Magazine. Many thanks to Dean for providing some excellent thoughts relative to justification, and our expectation as Believers.

FAITH AND EXPECTATION

“THE BELIEVERS are those who are believing what God says to them.” *[Bob Evely comment: This seems like a straightforward statement, but is something we need to ponder. Many within the traditional churches of our day have varying definitions of what it means to be a "Believer." One must assent to lists of doctrinal positions, or is not considered a Believer in the eyes of some. But, as was the case with Abraham who simply believed God, and it was reckoned as righteousness ... so also it is in all eras. A Believer is one who is believing what God says to them. And in this era, He has spoken thru His Word.]*

“Justification, which was accomplished in the past will be realized in the future. It has not come into effect in human experience and realization yet. Ultimately it will embrace all mankind (Romans 5:18,19). But in the meantime, the evangel which tells us that God gave His Son Who died for our sakes, this message revealing God’s righteousness manifested through the faith of Jesus Christ, is being proclaimed. And those who, in God’s grace, are believing it are already being affected by it in spirit and will be fully blessed in every way in resurrection (*cf* Romans 6:5,8; 8:23). On believing the evangel, God reckons the righteousness gained by Christ to us (Romans 4:4,5,11,23-25) ...”

“The evangel speaks, then, of an achievement in the past that will be realized for all in the future. And then it speaks particularly of present and future enjoyment of special blessings for us who are believing.”

“Like Abraham, in believing what God says to us we come to recognize God as the Vivifier of the dead, Who is calling that which is not as if it were. We also, like him, continue to be believing God, not on the basis of sight, but simply on the basis of full *reliance* on God, *expecting* that what He has said will come to be.”

“The believing does not take the form of feeling but rather of expectation. If we rest our faith on feelings or experiences in the flesh or visible signs we will be led into doubts and depressing disappointments, for this is not the era for such evidences. Yet faith will grow as we focus on what God has said and rely on Him to bring it about. Faith that is settled upon expectant reliance on God is faith that invigorates. It rejuvenates us spiritually.”

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