

## Hidden Treasures 207

*"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7*

---

### IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

In Genesis 15:4+5 we read: "And behold the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, 'This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be. Abram believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.'"

If Abraham had not believed Him, he would have been unrighteous and would have made a liar of the Lord. But Abraham took God at his word and believed that he would not receive an imputed son, but a real son who would come from his own body. It was this living faith in God's promise that was counted to him as righteousness.

"Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But also for us, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:23-25.

Abraham believed the promise God gave him. And what promises do we have that we are intended to believe? At this point many have gone astray. They only believe that Jesus' righteousness is to be imputed to us without it becoming a reality in us, so that Jesus' righteousness is actually carried out in our body. It is only when we believe that Jesus is able to do such a great work within us (that we, like He, will also be able to live this righteousness to the end) that this can be imputed to us, as well.

Jesus died for our sake so that we could obtain the forgiveness of sins. In this way, we have access to the grace which can set us free from sin. Jesus not only died for the sake of our sins, but He was also raised for our justification, in order to accomplish this great work in us. We are not only to receive Him as a sacrifice for sins, but also as our Lord, and, like Abraham, we are, also, to become obedient.

Paul was called to be an apostle in order to bring forth the obedience of the faith in His name (Rom.1:5). "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Rom. 5:10.

We can see that we can attain much more by His resurrection than by His death. In order to receive his grace, we first have to go through his death in order to be reconciled to God. Then we have access to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

Because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead we can receive Him as our Lord. Then we can receive grace and help to pursue perfection. God is almighty and He can accomplish great things in us. If sin has abounded, grace, nevertheless, abounds much more, and we will receive power and faith to obey these great admonitions.

God does not demand anything impossible from us. Since it is written in Hebrews 6 that we are to go on unto perfection, then the grace in Christ Jesus must be great enough for us to actually be able to do just that. "For sin shall not have dominion over

you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Rom. 6:14. Here we have a great opportunity. Only by a living faith are we able to accept this. And then it will really take place within us. Then we, like Abraham, will experience that the Lord keeps His promises. Abraham got what he had believed in. God was powerful to do what he had promised. Abraham received a son who came from his own body, and he gave God the honour for him.

And so if we are as believing as Abraham, we will also experience what Peter wrote: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." 1 Peter 1:15. And if we have come to such a walk, then we understand that it is God deserves the honor.

The time of grace is the time we are living in right now. When this time is past, then the time of judgement will come. Then grace will no longer be available. Then everyone will be judged according to his deeds, without respect of persons. Right now, in these days, we are intended to come to a new godly life. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3:3. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all

men, and chastises us (Norwegian translation) that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11+12. If we are not successful at this, then we truly have received the grace of God in vain.

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." 2 Peter 1:3. This is possible because Jesus made it possible for us, and we can live a new, eternal life that we have received from God (Romans 6:23). God is really able to accomplish what He promised us. That is why we can boldly draw near to God in the faith of Abraham. "Who against hope believed in hope," as it is written in Romans 4:18.

If we regard only our own strength, how we were, or perhaps how we still are, then there is really nothing to hope for. But if we believe in Him for whom all things are possible, as Abraham did, then we will obtain the promises just as Abraham did.

---

**Our tracts and literature can either be downloaded directly from the internet or ordered at the following address:**

Mission "*Alte Schule*" e.V.  
Stegäcker 1  
D - 71522 Backnang  
Germany

eMail: [mission@alte-schule.de](mailto:mission@alte-schule.de)  
<http://www.alte-schule.de>