

New Creation Realities

January 2013

As Though Sin Never Was

Romans 3 (New Living Translation)

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

26 For he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

(Bible in Basic English)

26 And to make clear his righteousness now, so that he might himself be upright, and give righteousness to him who has faith in Jesus.

I remember reading about him in *Newsweek* magazine in the 1990s. Jeffery Dahmer: atheist, serial killer, cannibal, sexual pervert, necrophiliac. In 2011, I didn't read about him in *Newsweek*: Jeffery Dahmer: Born-again. Child of God. Righteous.

Dahmer, child of God? You wonder. Dahmer, righteous? Forgiven all sins because he accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior? One person actually said he didn't want to go heaven if Dahmer was going to be there.

Dahmer himself did not disagree with people who thought like that. He actually wondered if he had out-sinned God's grace.

Roy Ratcliff, the pastor who baptized Dahmer - after he had accepted the Lord Jesus as Savior - in a bath tub at a federal prison in Wisconsin, tells of his weekly visits with Dahmer in his book "*Dark Journey, Deep Grace*". Ratcliff believes that Dahmer was truly sorry and remorseful. He recalled that Dahmer once told him that he felt he should have received the death penalty, instead of the multiple life sentences he got. Ratcliff agreed, "Yes; if anyone deserved to be put to death, you did."

Dahmer then said this: "*Well, if that's true, now that I'm a Christian, am I sinning by living?*"

Stand with me now in solemn awe of **Romans 3:25 and 26**.

God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. He declares sinners to be right in His sight when they believe in Jesus.

He gives righteousness to him who has faith in Jesus.

All Jeffrey Dahmer had to do was:

Believe in Jesus, and God would give him righteousness.

All he had to do was believe and accept Jesus as the sacrifice for his sin and Jesus becomes his righteousness.

A righteousness that Abraham would have envied. A righteousness better and superior to David's righteousness. A better standing with Jehovah God than John the Baptist had. The righteousness of God without the Law!

Weymouth's translation of verse 25 is a screamer: "*Rendered efficacious through faith in His blood.*"

Our faith in His blood is how we render the sacrifice effective in our lives. Our faith in His blood makes us righteous. We became righteous when we accepted Him as Savior, as the sacrifice for our sins.

"We must now stand in solemn awe of Romans 3:25, 26."

It is as though Dahmer had never sinned. He became sinless, blameless, unreprouvable, holy, righteous before God, just because he believed in Jesus.

Believe. Put their faith in Jesus. Made right with God.

II Corinthians 5

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.

If one died for all, then were all dead. Because Jesus died and paid for Dahmer's sins, then Dahmer died and paid for his sins.

Jesus died for Dahmer's sins. Dahmer walks. How is that complicated?

Jesus died for Dahmer's sins. Dahmer walks. How awesome is that?

What we must realize is that Dahmer did not go free. In fact, he couldn't have. No, God

forbid that Dahmer should go free of his sins, and I'm not necessarily talking of the murders and sexual perversion.

"Weymouth's translation is a screamer: "*Rendered efficacious through faith in His blood.*""

I'm talking about the sin in man's spiritual nature. God forbid that **you and I** would go free of our sins. The punishment was served, the price for the sins paid.

God did not just forgive Dahmer. Judgment was served, the punishment was done. The Lord Jesus paid the price, served the punishment for us. Dahmer did not go free.

What and who we are now is a new man, a brand new creation in Christ Jesus, with a new life that has no familiarity with sin. We were not refurbished. We were not made-over. We were *born, again*.

He so totally assumed our sin, sinfulness and deadness that it appears the only way that Paul could describe it was to say that God "*made Him to be sin for us*"!

In the same way, our identification with His righteousness is so complete, so absolute that Paul put it this way: we have been made "*the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus*"!

He took my place. I assume His place. He took my sin. I assume His sinlessness.

Almost too good to be true, but I believe it: *I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus*. I dare confess it. The sin was imputed to Christ, the righteousness to me, to us, to you when we accepted Him as Lord and Savior.

Not only is God not imputing the trespasses to me, to you, to us, not only did God make Him sin for us, He also re-created us in His own nature – in righteousness and true holiness.

I stand in the Father's presence as though sin never was.

He Himself is my standing. He Himself is my Righteousness.

Jeffery Dahmer was murdered in prison, Nov. 28, 1994.

Don't Come Creeping In

I was surprised to find that the expressions "in Christ," "in whom," and "in Him" occur more than 130 times in the New Testament. This is the heart of the Revelation of Redemption.

Here is the secret of faith -- faith that conquers, faith that moves mountains. Here is the secret of the Spirit's guiding us into all reality.

Ephesians 1:7: "In whom we have our redemption through his blood, the remission of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace."



It is not a beggarly Redemption, but a real liberty in Christ that we have now. It is a Redemption by the God Who could say, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven," and cause the whole starry heavens to leap into being in a single instant.

It is Omnipotence beyond human reason. This is where philosophy has never left a footprint.

Our Redemption is a miracle of His grace. It is a present-tense work wrought "through His blood." It is lavish. When you know it and your heart grows accustomed to it, there will be ability in your life.

Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace."

You are to come boldly. Don't come creeping in. Don't come in confessing your sin, bemoaning your weakness and failures. Put on the new garment. You are the sons and daughters of God Almighty without condemnation.

- E. W. Kenyon

New Creation Realities

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the Lord cometh!