

"By Himself"

by Dr. Walter L. Wilson

"When he had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3).

Our Lord in His kindness to us has spoken very simply and plainly, so that we cannot misunderstand His words. He has conveyed His thoughts in such simple expressions that even a child can realize the great love of His heart.

In this passage in Hebrews, it states that the Son of God sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. He sat down because His work was finished. There was nothing left to be done. He had shouted on the cross, "It is finished," and therefore He sat down at God's right hand to see the results of His great work at Calvary.

The work of saving the soul is exclusively in the hands of Christ. If your soul is to be saved, the Saviour must do it. God has given to Him the entire work of blotting out the sin stains, putting away the guilt, writing the believer's name in the Book of Life, and giving the gift of eternal life to the dying soul. He does all of this "by Himself."

There are a number of reasons why Christ alone can cleanse the heart from all sin. Let us consider some of these and believe that our souls shall be helped, as each reader shall apply the truth to himself. It is always the application that brings the blessing. To read of the composition of a loaf of bread will not satisfy the appetite. The bread must be eaten. To see the bubbling fountain of clear, cold water will not satisfy the thirst. The water must be drunk in order that the refreshment may be experienced. So is it with Christ. We must take Him for ourselves and apply the truth of His great work to our own souls. Therefore let us consider and believe that our Lord by Himself purged our sins, for the following reasons:

No One Else Cares Enough

You have no friend who would care to die for your sins. You may have friends who will do many things for you because they love you. They may do some things to reward you for your kindness, but no one will give his life for your wicked deeds, your sins, your trespasses. On the other hand it was "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He saw our deep need, He knew how helpless we were to meet that need, and so He loved us unto death. He did not desire that any should

be lost. He knew there was no human remedy and so He gave Himself to die in our place for our sins. How much we should love Him for this wonderful grace! How much we should honor Him for His care!

No One Else Has the Right

On one occasion I was preaching in a large penitentiary. I asked the prisoners how many of them would like me to go to the warden's office and destroy the records written against them. Many raised their hands. I told them that I would be happy to do it for them, but that I had no legal right to do so; that I would be a transgressor if I attempted it.

No man has the right to alter or destroy the records of the court. But Christ has the right. God has appointed Him to blot out men's sins. He is God's official Saviour. It is God's will that He should with His precious blood blot out the records and remove the stain of every sin. Christ does it with a full knowledge and approval of the great God of heaven and earth. You should trust Him to do it for you. "By Himself."

No One Else Has the Power

None of us can reach up into heaven and destroy the records that are there. We are of the earth, earthy. Our efforts are confined to this earth. The records of heaven are entirely beyond our reach. The private archives of God cannot be reached by human hands. None but God's own Son can enter there, take the records out of the file and destroy them. Only He can blot out the indictment. In Colossians 2:14, we read, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." Only Christ could do this. How glad our hearts should be that Christ Jesus was willing to do it! Why do you not come to Him gladly and trust him to do it for you?

No One Else Can Complete the Work

Every single sin must be blotted out from the moment of our birth until the moment of our death. On the death bed the mind is not able to function. If death is by a sudden accident, there is no time to make preparation. Those who try to put away their sins by their own efforts could not possibly do so at the last moment, and probably would not make any effort to put away the sin of the last day of their life.

The Lord Jesus alone is able to save "to the uttermost." He will be with you the last day of your life. His precious blood is sufficient for every sin you may commit until the moment of your death. He only, without your help, is able to purge your sins, every one of them, to the

full and complete satisfaction of a righteous God. He purges every kind of sin and He purges everyone of them "by Himself." You cannot possibly remember the majority of your sins, but He knows everyone right up to the very end. You do not know how you will die, nor when. The very uncertainty of it all should cause you to believe fully and to rely wholly upon this wonderful Saviour to put away all your sins.

No One Else Is Sinless

That one who purges your sins must be without sin. A lawyer who is guilty himself cannot represent a guilty client. The judge demands that the lawyer shall come into court with clean hands. One guilty man cannot plead for another who is guilty. The Lord Jesus is before the eternal God without sin or fault or blame. He is absolutely perfect. No one else in all the world could appear before God on behalf of another. Christ alone is the only Mediator, the only Advocate who has the right to plead for a sinner.

"Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary.
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me;
Forgive Him, O forgive, they cry,
Nor let that ransomed sinner die."

This blessed Lawyer will not plead for you, nor will He purge your sins unless you believe on Him and turn your case over to Him. May you see it today that He will "by Himself" purge your sins. Trust Him now to do it for you.

No One Else Can Perform This Miracle

It is nothing short of a miracle to have the records of evil deeds completely removed, a new life given, and a new righteousness supplied in the place of those sins. We are unable to change one another. We may correct the conduct of another, but we cannot change the character of another. When the Saviour purges our sins He gives a new life and a new nature. The cannibal becomes a God-fearing man. The wicked becomes righteous. The cruel becomes kind. The selfish becomes generous. Those who have been harmful become helpful. This miracle in the human life can only be brought about by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The God who gave life to every animal and plant is the only One who can change that life and place in the heart a new nature.

All of this He does "by Himself." You cannot help Him do it; you cannot assist in any way; you can have no part in it whatever. But you must be willing for Him to do it, and trust Him alone and no one else.

You should rely upon Him just now. He will do all of this for you.

We have no trouble forgiving some sins and forgetting them, but we find it hard to forgive other sins in our friends. There are some sins which affect us so deeply that we carry the marks through life. Other sins we excuse both in ourselves and in others.

We are very partial both to people and to their deeds. For that reason none of us is fit to handle the sin question either for himself or for others. Christ must do it; He must do it "by Himself." If we should bring into this transaction anything from ourselves it would be tainted and soiled, for we are so sinful. The one who purges our sins must purge every one of them, the great and the small, and the sins of every degree. He must purge the sins that are pampered and cherished, as well as those that are distasteful and disagreeable. This our blessed Lord does perfectly. The trusting soul is cleansed, purged, and washed whiter than snow.

No One Else Can Defeat Satan

The devil is a powerful foe. He will hold us in our sins if it is possible. He will bind us in our habits and selfish ways with strong cords, which no human being can break. Christ is the stronger man mentioned in Matthew 12:29. Only Christ can conquer Satan, the "strong man," and deliver those whom Satan has bound in his castle of sin. "By Himself" He purges every sin, removes all the guilt, and breaks every chain. Satan is able to guard his property from all human schemes and plans for the deliverance of his captives. No human philosophy nor theosophy, no social gospel of soap, soup and sunshine, no educational program, no religious forms or ceremonies can deliver the sinner from his sins. Christ alone is able to do this. He does it "by Himself"

No One Else Can Do a Permanent Work

The work of purging the soul from sin must be a work that lasts forever. No change of circumstances, nor conditions of life must affect it. This purging must be effectual in youth and old age, and in times of stress and distress. Whether sleeping or waking, whether busy or idle, whether sick or well, whether conscious or unconscious, the purging of the soul from its sins must be always effectual. The presence of that One who does the purging must be always assured.

Often when the sick friend wants his doctor, the doctor is away on another case, or out of the city, and cannot help. It must not be so when the sinner needs the Saviour. Even if the doctor does relieve the pain and heal the wound, it might recur at a later date when the doctor

was not at hand. Christ is a very present help in trouble. He is always near, ready at once to succor the needy soul. He alone can purge the sins at any time and do a work that lasts forever. Will you not come to Him now with all your guilt and sin, just as you are, and let the Saviour "by Himself" purge your sins?

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