

JOHN 15:13-14 #2
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John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. YE ARE MY FRIENDS, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

WHO CAN BE A FRIEND OF JESUS?
HIS FRIENDSHIP WAS EXTENDED TO MANY -

Matthew 11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, A FRIEND OF PUBLICANS AND SINNERS. But wisdom is justified of her children.

EVEN IN THE GARDEN, WHEN **JUDAS** CAME TO BETRAY HIM, JESUS OFFERED HIS FRIENDSHIP TO JUDAS:

Matthew 26:50 And Jesus said unto him, FRIEND, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

BUT, HAVING THE FRIENDSHIP EXTENDED TO YOU IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING A "FRIEND OF JESUS". UNDOUBTEDLY, MANY OF THE PUBLICANS AND SINNERS THAT JESUS DINED WITH, BECAME HIS FRIEND. OTHERS DID NOT. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF MANKIND, GOD'S OFFER OF FRIENDSHIP HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MANKIND.

ABLE ACCEPTED GOD'S OFFER - **CAIN** DID NOT.

ISSAC ACCEPTED GOD'S OFFER - **ESSAU** DID NOT.

JOHN AND TEN OTHER APOSTLES ACCEPTED GOD'S OFFER - **JUDAS** DID NOT!

JAMES tells us the prerequisite for becoming a true friend of God -

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD**, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the FRIEND OF GOD.

EACH ONE OF THOSE MENTIONED WHO REFUSED GOD'S FRIENDSHIP, MAY HAVE HAD IT ON THE SAME GROUND AS THAT OF **ABRAHAM**. THAT IS, BY FAITH IN GOD.

WHO WERE THE TRUE FRIENDS OF JESUS? THOSE WHO BELIEVED ON HIM!

John 15:13 GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

"A young British soldier, Alexander Russell, was on his way to join his regiment in India when the ship on which he was sailing was torpedoed. Within minutes the lifeboats were crowded to capacity. On the one that Mr. Russel boarded was a young mother with her new born infant.

Anxiously looking for her husband, she suddenly spied him struggling helplessly in the water. Becoming hysterical, she cried out for someone to save him. Exhibiting great courage, Alexander Russell dove overboard, rescued the drowning man, and placed him in the boat. Not one of the frail barks bobbing on the waves could possibly bear the weight of another man, so with strong, vigorous strokes, the young man swam away to his death. Alexander Russell died for a fine young husband and father. His heroic act reminds us of what Paul says in:

Rom. 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

HEROISM SUCH AS THIS NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE.

BUT WHAT IF MR. RUSSELL HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR A DRUG PUSHER, OR MURDERER. OUR ADMIRATION FOR THIS SELFLESS SACRIFICE ON THE BEHALF OF MR. RUSSELL MIGHT BEGIN TO WANE. MOST WOULD FEEL THAT THAT TYPE OF PERSON IS NOT WORTH THE SACRIFICE. *db 12/21/69.*

ROM. 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

BUT THIS IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF PERSON TO WHOM CHRIST OFFERS HIS HAND OF FRIENDSHIP. HE DID NOT COME TO SAVE THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS!

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time **CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY.** **Romans 5:7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

ALL OF THIS WAS DONE THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE FRIENDS OF GOD!
THIS IS **NOT A FUTURE FRIENDSHIP** WHICH WILL YIELD BENIFITS AT A LATER DATE, IT IS A PRESENT FRIENDSHIP WITH PRESENT BENIFITS.

“YE ARE MY FRIENDS”

“THOSE OF US WHO KNOW THE LORD HAVE MANY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AND CAN EXPERIENCE THE **ABUNDANT LIFE HERE AND NOW.** WE ARE SOMETIMES ACCUSED OF HAVING A “PIE IN THE SKY” THEOLOGY BUT SUCH A CHARGE COULD NOT BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. FROM *DB 12-2-73*

1 JOHN 3:2 RIGHT “NOW” WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Beloved, **now we are children of God;** and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, **BEING NOW JUSTIFIED** BY HIS BLOOD, we shall be saved from wrath through him. **5:10** 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.**

Many believers feel that life is anti-climatic after their conversion. They think that contact with God is a fleeting thing in this life and that all they can do now is wait for the day when they will be in heaven so that they can enjoy their salvation. Nothing is further from the truth. IF HE EXTENDED HIS FRIENDSHIP TO US IN OUR SIN, HOW “**MUCH MORE**” SO NOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!

Romans 5:10 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.

WE ARE NOT WAITING TO BE JUSTIFIED - WE ARE JUSTIFIED "RIGHT NOW" LIKEWISE,
WE ARE NOT WAITING TO BE RIGHTEOUS - WE ARE RIGHTEOUS "RIGHT NOW"

RIGHT "NOW" THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS OURS BY FAITH:

Rom. 3:21 But **NOW** THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD WITHOUT THE LAW is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; EVEN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD WHICH IS BY FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST UNTO ALL AND UPON ALL THEM THAT BELIEVE: for there is no difference:

But you may say, I do not always live a life characterized by Righteousness. I still have trouble with sin now and again. This is true, we do still have a sin nature - but -

RIGHT "NOW" WE ARE FREE FROM SINS DOMINION:

Rom. 6:22 But **NOW BEING MADE FREE FROM SIN**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

II Peter 1:3 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: Whereby ARE GIVEN UNTO US exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The power of sin to hold sway in our lives has been broken! Not only are we free from its dominion but also from its curse! for - and,

RIGHT "NOW" WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER CONDEMNATION:

Romans 8:1 There is therefore **NOW no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. FOR, WE ARE ALREADY THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

I Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, BUT ARE **NOW THE PEOPLE OF GOD**: which had not obtained mercy, BUT NOW HAVE OBTAINED MERCY.

John 15:14 YE ARE MY FRIENDS, - - - IF YE DO WHATSOEVER I COMMAND YOU.

WHAT DID JESUS COMMAND?

FIRST - **John 6:29** Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, THAT YE BELIEVE ON HIM WHOM HE HATH SENT.**

THE **DEMONSTRATION OF WHETHER WE HAVE TRULY BELIEVED** ON THE SON OF GOD IS IN OUR DAY TO DAY RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.