

## What impresses God?

Luke 18:9-14

### 1. A Warning to the "Good enough"

- Pharisees - the ultra-religious, people thought of them as the good guys
- He thinks all is well between him and God – 3 mistakes

#### a. A wrong view of sin

- Something others did, not him - No confession

#### b. A wrong view of obedience

- Negative obedience – I don't do
- Offset obedience – I do all this
- Comparative obedience – I'm not like them

#### c. A wrong view of God

- Thinks God is like him, impressed with deeds
- God looks at heart – v14 not impressed
- Good enough isn't good enough for God

### 2. Hope for the Hopeless – No-one is too bad for God's salvation

- Tax collector – the ultimate bad guy
- Conventional religion has nothing to offer – only Christianity has.
- God's solution is in v13 – God be *merciful* to me
- Not ordinary mercy, but 'atone for me', pay by sacrifice (Heb 2:17)
- Somebody has to take the wrath; Jesus offers (Rom 3:24,25)

#### How do we receive it?

- Humility – he beat his breast, wouldn't look up
- Admission of guilt – *the sinner*
- Reliance on God's sacrifice – have mercy (propitiation)

#### The Outcome

- Justified: declared to be innocent, free from punishment - instantly & forever.

### 3. A Challenge to the Converted

- Jesus tells this parable to those following him - We need to be on our guard
- a. What makes you feel good about yourself? Your obedience?**
    - You are forgetting Christ – it is only because of him that you are accepted
  - b. What would make you feel good about yourself? A better past?**
    - You are forgetting justification – you have been declared accepted by God
  - c. How do you react to those whose sin repels you? Distain? Avoidance?**
    - You are forgetting your sinfulness – you too were a great sinner

Jesus alone impresses God. The Christian is someone who has stopped trying to impress God, and has accepted God's offer of salvation. That free gift transforms how we see ourselves and others.



n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 27th July 08

#### Notices

Sab	Evening Service at Mark & Judith's Discussion time	8pm
Tues	Sale on in Open Door Bookshop in Letterkenny	
Wed 30th	Presentation of the Call from Kellswater to Mark 8pm at Faughan RP Church	

Everyone in the Fellowship is encouraged to come to the meeting. Representatives from Letterkenny and from Milford will be presenting reasons why Mark should stay. The Kellswater congregation will present reasons why he should come to Kells.

Please keep Mark & Judith in your prayers as they consider where God would have them serve.

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