

Devotional Study Guide Journal

March 15th



No Pain No Gain?

In a secular system the popular saying, “No pain, no gain,” might reasonably apply when seeking better physical fitness or success in a personal, educational, or professional endeavor. Even the Bible says, “If a man refuses to work, he should not eat.” This means we have certain responsibilities in life if we want to make progress.

But when it comes to our relationship with God, our attitude should be:

His pain.

Our gain.

After Jesus bore our sickness, carried our griefs, and paid for our sins as the spotless Lamb of God on the cross of Calvary, He said, “It is finished.” This means, as the songs say, “Jesus paid it all.”

Romans 10:1-4

*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of **God's** righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.***

When we believe in Jesus, it is enough. We are not righteous by keeping laws as was practiced under the Old Covenant. We are righteous by believing—by faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 10:11-14

*And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***

I was an ordained minister before verse 14 stood out to me so vividly and only after it was pointed out to me in a devotional by Charles Swindoll entitled: The Grace Awakening Workbook: Experience the Freedom of Grace for Yourself! I remember sitting there in joyful silence. How did I not see this in the Bible as I was reading it again and again? Could it be true? Have I been perfected forever by His one sacrifice?

For so many years we did everything we could to please God and to live righteously. There is nothing wrong with wanting to please God and live righteously, but we didn't understand this:

*We don't live righteously to become righteous.
We live righteously because He made us righteous—the very
righteousness of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be a sin offering¹ for us, that we might be made² the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus purchased our righteousness before God with His own blood. Will we still need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2) and by beholding Jesus (2 Cor. 3:28)? Yes, but we cannot make ourselves righteous. That could only be accomplished by Jesus. If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are right now and forevermore the righteousness of God.

His pain. Our gain.



¹ MOUNCE

² KJV

