



# Adventist Enterprises Newsletter

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The book, "Exploring the Heavenly Sanctuary" is now available as part of the Logos Bible Software system, please go to [www.logos.com/product/10032/exploring-the-heavenly-sanctuary-understanding-seventh-day-adventist-theology](http://www.logos.com/product/10032/exploring-the-heavenly-sanctuary-understanding-seventh-day-adventist-theology) for more details.

We have just passed the anniversary of 9/11, our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones. Our world is in an unsettled state and we need the return of Christ to usher in the new earth when death, sin and suffering will forever cease (Rev. 21:1-4). It is good to study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation as they reveal clearly special warnings and guidance for the last days. The central focus of the three angels' message is the everlasting gospel. Paul spoke of this gospel as being foolishness to those who don't believe but the power of God to those who are saved (1 Cor. 1). In the Cross no one can boast because the work is all of God; we can only admit our sin and unworthiness and claim by faith the merits of Christ's sacrifice for our atonement based on the mercy and grace of God.

We can never earn our righteousness or justification because then it would not be mercy or grace. A story is told of a soldier who fell asleep on duty and was sentenced to death. His mother went to see Napoleon to plead for his life and asked for mercy. Napoleon said that her son did not deserve mercy, but she said if he deserved mercy it would not be mercy. By her pleading she saved the life of her son. In a similar way Christ pleads as our High Priest in the heavenly temple for our salvation, not because we are worthy but because of His blood because He paid the penalty and is willing for His righteousness to be credited to us.

This concept was not new to the Christian era because Abraham believed God and is was credited to him as righteousness (Gen. 15:6). Despite that fact that he endeavoured to keep God's commandments (Gen. 26:5), yet he still needed to be justified by faith. God credited to Abraham's account the righteousness that he needed. This same principle is seen the story of Cain and Abel (Gen. 4). Abel by faith offered a blood sacrifice and God accepted it, but Cain relied on his own works and did not bring a blood sacrifice and his offering was not acceptable. This shows the difference between true and false religion. Only through Christ can we be saved, but such a faith does not lead us to abolish the law (Rom. 3:31). Through Christ we seek to uphold His holy precepts enshrined in the heavenly temple in the Ark of the Covenant (Rev. 11:19). Thankfully above the law is the mercy seat where the penitent sinner can plead for mercy because of the blood of Christ. It is the blood of Christ that gives us confidence (Heb. 6:19).

Your brother in Christ

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