

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 41

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 31, 2014

THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION XII

Faith and Works (2)

In common with other churches on the continent, the Church of England followed Luther's lead in rethinking the doctrine of justification, as a participation in the righteousness of Christ. The logical basis of this rethinking is given in Article XV, "Of Christ alone without sin".

Christ in the truth of our nature was made like unto us in all things, sin only except.... He came to be the Lamb without spot, who, by sacrifice of himself once made, should take away the sins of the world; and sin (as Saint John saith) was not in him. But all we the rest, although baptized, and born again in Christ, yet offend in many things; and if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

This is the key to the whole: all men cut off from God by the loss of original righteousness, save Christ the one sinless man, uniquely able to act on behalf of sinners. Any righteousness we might hope for depends wholly upon his. So, as Article XI indicates, the righteousness of justification is not inherent or intrinsic, but external, extrinsic or alien - not ours but Christ's. Because it is his own perfected righteousness, it is already perfect, not a righteousness yet to be incrementally perfected. As already perfect, it neither increases nor decreases; there is nothing that our works can contribute to it, or take away from it, by way of

merit or demerit; nothing that our works can do to prepare for it or to exceed it. It ours to receive by faith alone. Therefore justification is not a process by which we are made righteous through good works (the late medieval understanding of the doctrine), but an act in which for Christ's sake God reckons sinners as righteous through faith. And if he says we are righteous, then so we are: our sins no longer stand between us and God, and we are adopted by him into divine sonship.

"We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works or deservings". But what does this mean for works? what place does moral striving and moral renewal have in the life of the justified sinner? Article XII ("Of Good Works") denies that good works can contribute to our justification. Though *"pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ"*, good works *"cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment."* Neither do good works prepare man to receive justification (Article XIII, "Of Works before Justification"); nor do they add to or advance beyond the righteousness he receives in justification (XIV "Of Works of Supererogation"). These denials clear the way for the affirmation: they *are*

THE PARISH PAPER
OF
St. John's Church
1 WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 W. Macon St., Savannah, GA 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street 31401(912) 234-2209
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom Priest Assistant
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410(912) 656-3807
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr..... Parish Secretary
Mrs. Peter W. Schmidt Financial Secretary
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes..... Christian Education Director
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

Senior Warden..... Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.
Junior Warden..... Mr. William Howard Helmken, Jr.
Clerk of Vestry..... Mr. R. Scott Howard
Treasurer..... Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford
Chancellor..... M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

The Vestry: *Esqs.*, M. Tyus Butler, Jr., John M. Hewson III, Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague, Drs. J. Davidson Carson, James S. McClellan, Jr., Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, *Messrs.* Charles B. Compton, Jr., E. Brian Culver, John C. Helmken II, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., R. Scott Howard, William C. Rodgers, Paul D. Troxler, Floyd G. Whittington, Jr., Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's...Mrs. Christian Arden-Joly
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. John C. Helmken II

Church Office(912) 232-1251
Fax(912) 232-5559
Parish House(912) 233-3845
Cranmer Hall(912) 232-8887
E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE
Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mrs. R. Bartley Turner

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross M. Haire

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and to the loving memory Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Radford by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roller;

in loving memory of Alexander Robert Fawcett by his wife, Mrs. Alexander Robert Fawcett, and his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett;

and in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Carson, Jr. who were married at St. John's by the Rev'd Ernest Risley.

The flowers at the altar in the chapel are given to the glory of God on the occasion of the marriage of Katherine Aline Solana and Craig Thomas Beese.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
Mrs. Robert A. Burnett, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. David A. Young
Mrs. George Fawcett, Mrs. John Reiter
Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00
10:30 Charles Perrie
Mikel Kelly, Hunt Wasden
Jamie McClellan, Patrick Perrie
Philip Inglesby, Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

St. John's Gospel Fr. Dunbar, Reading Room
Next Sunday: Dr. Noble's Class resumes

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday 7 a.m., *Samuel*, Fr. Dunbar, Reading Rm

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR (11/12 & 13).

The Holly Days Bazaar **KICK OFF MEETING** takes place Wednesday September 3rd at 5:30 pm in Cranmer Hall. Bazaar updates will be discussed. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided.

The **Silent Auction** needs fabulous donations! Please call Holly Montford, 912 897-6202

Waitresses! Please call Grace Merritt 658-3010 or Richie Reed 703 409-2266.

Chili! Football Season is around the corner: please make an extra batch of Chili for the Bazaar luncheon. Question or commitments, call Christiana Turner 898-1810.

Please **LIKE** the Holly Days Bazaar on Facebook for updates and info!

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

the fruits of Faith, and follow after Justification ... and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith; insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit. Good works are not the cause but the effect of being united with Christ in faith, and made partakers of his righteousness. When his righteousness takes hold of us through faith, then it is expressed in our own lives, in the regeneration of the will. This regeneration of the will that has already been spoken of in Article X (“Of Free Will”): “*we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us [i.e. the prevenient grace that ‘goes before’], that we may have a good will, and working with us [i.e. cooperative grace] when we have that good will*”. And this renewal of the will, referred to elsewhere as sanctification, is everything that justification is not: imperfect rather than perfect; an incremental process, not a completed act; inherent rather than extrinsic; actively accomplished in good works rather than passively received by means of faith alone, infused rather than imputed.

These distinctions between faith and works, justification and sanctification, bring a logical clarity to the late Medieval “maze” of which Hooker complained. It is important to grasp that they are distinctions, not separations. Just as there are no good works that do not spring from justifying faith, so there is no justifying faith that is not fruitful in good works: if there

are no works, then faith is dead, and does not justify. Nor can justifying faith be understood except as an infused grace of sanctification.

But what is the logic which both distinguishes and unites faith and works, justification and sanctification? Nothing less than the ancient Chalcedonian doctrine of Christ as one person in two distinct but inseparable natures, divine and human. A Christian exists in two realms simultaneously, the divine and the human. He is *simul justus et peccator*, at once righteous and a sinner. By the grace of justification we are already perfectly righteous, already in heaven, but this is a divine reality known by faith alone. On earth we are sinners still in need of continual repentance (as Article XVI reminds us), still in the process of becoming righteous by the grace of sanctification, through the practice of good works. Justification by faith alone does not abolish the imperative of moral renewal: it just sets it upon a sure foundation, which is Christ alone. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday - *Office Closed, No Services*

Tuesday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

General Meeting - Wednesday September 3rd - After 10 a.m. *Installation of Officers and Corporate Eucharist* in the Chapel

MEN OF ST. JOHN'S - SAVE THE DATE
Annual Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, September 18th, Cranmer Hall

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL 204
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service from 8:45 to 9:15.

9:30-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30-10:15 A.M.—ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 a.m. – Noon— Preschool-Kindergarten Summer Program

(*Cranmer Hall –activities for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times*)

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #280 *God, My King, Thy Might Confessing*Stuttgart

Opening Sentences Prayer Book, page 3

Confession, Absolution, Lord’s Prayer 6-7

Versicles and Responses..... 7-8

VENITE #610 9

Psalm #51 403

First Lesson: Daniel 19:1-19 *Daniel’s prayer for his people in their captivity*..... *insert*

TE DEUM #615, 619 10

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 15:1 and St. Luke 18:9 204, 205

BENEDICTUS #634..... 15

Apostles’ Creed..... 15

Versicles and Responses..... 16

Collect for the Day 204

Other Collects, Prayers, and the Grace 17-20

HYMN #60 *With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh* Babylon’s Streams

Kindergarten through 4th grade children may exit following the Cross for music.

THE SERMON Fr. Bergstrom

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Two Men Betook Themselves to Pray In the Temple*Heinrich Schultz

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #282 *Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven*Lauda Anima

VOLUNTARY: *Fanfare* Jacques Lemmens

Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Green Meldrim House immediately after the 10:30 service.

If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12 Noon —HOLY COMMUNION (Church) - as 8 a.m.