



## The Age of God's Approval

**W**hat does the Bible say about God's approval of the Christian? Is the Christian already approved or does he yet need approval? You'll find one of these the basis of most religious belief systems.

The entire Christian faith is built upon Jesus Christ, for without Jesus Christ, there would be no Christianity. Jesus was a man. He lived in this world just like we live in this world. He endured the many challenges of life just like we do? Was Jesus approved of God?

(Acts 2:22) *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of*



*God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

One of the first things taught to the masses on the day of Pentecost about Jesus Christ was that he WAS approved of God. In no way did God disapprove of His son. God approved of all aspects of Jesus Christ.

This word, "approved," means, "put on exhibit." God wanted the world to see Jesus and all that

he did, and, for the most part, the world has. *God showed off His son to the world.* His acceptance of him gave proof of His approval of him as well. But, God's acceptance did not stop at Jesus, for Jesus was meant for the entire world. Jesus ushered in a brand new age! Jesus delivered to mankind the AGE OF GOD'S ACCEPTANCE. We live in this age today.

(Isa 61:1-2) *The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to*

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them that are bound; {2} To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

The above verse is a fantastic verse, putting Jesus' purpose in complete perspective. He preached good tidings, he bound up the brokenhearted, he proclaimed liberty to captives (of satan), he opened the prisons of those bound (by satan), and he proclaimed something else singularly spectacular! ***He proclaimed the acceptable year of God.*** I must immediately take you to the New Testament reference of this verse because you are probably asking, what about the day of vengeance and the mourning people which are also listed in Isaiah 61?

(Luke 4:18-19) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, {19} To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke cited Jesus' words as Jesus quoted them from the book of Isaiah. But Jesus stopped quoting after he introduced the acceptable year of the Lord. Why? ***Why didn't he just keep on going, quoting the day of vengeance of God?*** The answer is quite simple. The day of vengeance of God has not yet taken place. It will AFTER the gathering together of all Christians (the return of Christ).

(1 Th 4:16-17) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and

with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: {17} Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Right now though, today, is the acceptable year of God. During this unique period of time, you will not see God's wrath, His vengeance upon people. You will only see His acceptance! Have you ever asked yourself, "why do people get away with so many bad things, literally murder?" Well, there's your answer. God is "staying" his wrath during this period of time. But it will come.

The following scripture sheds fantastic light on this subject of God's acceptance of YOU.

(Rom 15:15-16) Nevertheless,

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brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, {16} That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Before we were born again of God's spirit, we were Gentiles as mentioned in verse 16. There were several groupings of people at the beginning of this age of God's acceptance: Jews, Gentiles and the Church of God. Until you are born again, you are effectively a Gentile, an unbeliever.

(Rom 10:9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from

the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Once you believe according to Romans 10:9, you are a Christian.

You then actively take part in God's acceptance and His grace.

It is at this time that you enter into the arms of God's acceptance.

*Fortunately for man, because of God's determination of this age of acceptance, man does not experience God's wrath.* That day

will come, and it will be more than God's wrath. It will also be satan's wrath unfolded in that great time of battle. Don't forget! No matter though. Christians WON'T be here for that.

(Rom 5:8-9) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. {9} Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved

from wrath through him.

And ...

(1 Th 1:10) And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

And ...

(1 Th 5:9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Yes, I know. Many religions teach that Christians WILL have to endure this period of wrath. Maybe even your preacher does. *I'm sorry*

*to say that they are all sorely misled, and, if you believe them, so are you.* Why would Jesus

have introduced God's Age of Approval and then somehow

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changed it to God's age of wrath – without telling you? This just doesn't make sense, especially when you study the whole Bible on this subject. You, as a Christian, are always saved from God's wrath!

(Rom 15:15-16) Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, {16} That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Let's go back to verse 16 again. I had to teach you about Gentiles before I could deliver the highly significant "punch" of this verse. Notice that it says, "being sanctified by Holy Ghost?" The

word "ghost" is an old English word which is very mis-leading. This is the Greek word meaning, "spirit." The spirit referenced is the "gift of holy spirit," "Christ in you."

(Col 1:27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

It is the gift that you receive when you become born again. And, it is this fantastic gift that makes you an integral part of God's plan of approval. Did you notice the word "sanctified" in Romans 15:16? This word means, "holy." Via the wonderful gift of holy spirit, God makes you holy and acceptable. *Did I mention that you remain forever holy? That's right!*

(1 Pet 1:23) Being born

again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

*Once you have this gift, it is yours forever.*

*Even God won't take it away.*

Why? Because it is seed, incorruptible seed. Heck. It can't even get sick – at all! It is absolutely perfect. God made sure of one thing, that when someone would believe on Him through Jesus Christ, the effects of that belief would be enduring, lasting for all of time and eternity.

*I'm quite sorry that so many, well-meaning teachers continue to teach hell-fire damnation teachings.*

*Who knows? Maybe THEY will have to go through that stuff because maybe they aren't born again?* But

I am and I hope are you too.

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The truth is that you are sanctified, approved, and saved from any and all forms of God's wrath now and forever. You live in the Age of God's Approval. You will be gathered up together with all other Christians when Jesus Christ returns for us. Because of this, you won't be here during the great wrath of God and the battle between Satan and God. You have been saved from the wrath to come, and it IS coming. You have Christ in you, incorruptible seed, and even God won't undo this marvelous spiritual wonder.

*The real question is, do you believe that you **ARE** accepted of God **NOW?***

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown