You Are Worthy By Peter Salemi

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Why do Christians say "I'm not worthy" or "I don't deserve anything" when God says otherwise?

Do we as Christians, really deserve nothing? Are we Christians just sad, pathetic sinners *worthy* of nothing? Have you heard this from Pastors and Priests-this particular belief system of God's children are not worthy of anything?

From an early age and through early adulthood, I often heard the same thing: "We deserve nothing... We are not worthy...We are nothing. We are poor and wretched."

This belief-though believed by *many*, does *not* seem to match what God says about us in the Bible.

Now there's at least a *grain* or two of truth in those statements. But then again, Satan battled with Christ in the desert using *partial* truths from the Bible. But let's go after the *complete truth* from the scriptures.

Are we Wretched?

Are human beings poor wretched sinners not worthy of anything that God offers? **Not** in the **beginning!** We must remember in the *beginning* God created man in His (God's) image. "...in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Gen 1:27). And God *bless them* and gave them dominion, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have *dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

"And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so." (Gen 1:28-30). Here we have man, made in the very image of God, *after God's own kind in physical form*, not *touched by sin*, and God has given everything to man to rule over surrounded by opulence-to multiply and be blessed. Can you say man was *worthy* then? Absolutely!

Yet the scriptures say mankind is, "worthy of death." (Rom 1:32). What changed?

Paul says that man regressed, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened....Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen....they did not like to retain God in their knowledge..." (Romans 1:21, 22, 25, 28). Man after the fall, turned their back on God, and instead of being worthy of God's blessing as in the beginning, man sinned, and are now, "...knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Rom 1:32). Sinning mankind are not worthy of what God has instore for them, and are left to their own devices, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections...God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Rom 1:24, 26, 28).

As a result, when God sent his servants the prophets to the world, the Bible says, "(Of whom the world was *not* worthy:)" (Heb 11:38). They were to even "reverence" the Son of God, but rejected him and so were *not* worthy of him, but were worthy of death (see Matthew 21:37-46). Christ said plainly that, He must be loved supremely, or he is not loved at all. If we do not put him first in our lives, and if we do not obey him rather than all others, we are not "worthy" of him (see Matthew 10:37-38); rejecting God and Christ and his ways are "worthy of Death."

Are Christians "Worthy"?

What about Christians? People who have repented and accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior? What do the scriptures say?

Jesus says people who follow him are, "...they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world..." (Luke 20:35). Why are they accounted "worthy"? Christians

are worthy *because* Christ is worthy! "*Thou art worthy*, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev 4:11).

Christ is the creator of all things (John 1:1-3) and is worthy of all (Matthew 28:18). Christians are *cleansed* from their sins [their sins makes them *not* worthy] by His blood and, "have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (Rev 7:14; 1 John 1:17; see also 2 Corinth 5:21). By this Christians are worthy, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath *clothed me* with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels." (Isa 61:10). Remember, the "...life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." (Lev 17:11). Jesus' life and by extension his blood was "without sin" (Heb 4:15); and sin is the transgression of God's holy law (1 John 3:4); the opposite of sin is righteousness-the keeping of the law of God which Christ did do (Matthew 5:17; Psalm 119:172). So we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ which is God's law, and cleansed by his blood.

We now as Christians walk in God's Righteousness *not* our own "*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, *but after the Spirit*....That the *righteousness of the law* might be fulfilled in us [Christians], who walk not after the flesh, *but after the Spirit*." (Rom 8:1, 4). Walking in the *righteousness of Christ* makes us worthy:

- "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Colossians 1:10)
- "That ye would **walk** *worthy of God*, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. (1 Thess 2:12)
- "Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: (2 Thess 1:5)
- "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power (2 Thess 1:11).

Those who *do not* walk in *sin* Jesus says, "...have *not* defiled their garments; and they shall **walk** with me in white: *for they are worthy*." (Rev 3:4).

And those that, "labour in the word and doctrine" is a "labourer *is worthy* of his reward." (1 Tim 5:17, 18). Jesus says we are worthy, let no pastor priest or any other religious guru tell you otherwise-JESUS SAYS WE CHRISTIANS ARE WORTHY!

Even though we are worthy *because* of him, we still cast our crowns to him and his throne, and are not worthy to loose even his shoes (see Rev 4:10; Matt 3:11).

So, when you pray, pray as someone who is "worthy" because Christ made us worthy. Let's be *humble* but go "...boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need....So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Heb 4:16; 13:6); remember we Christians are, "my jewels" (Mal 3:17) on the crown-the "children of the Kingdom" (Matt 13:38) of course we are "worthy!