



HOMESWORD

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...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15b

Accused or Edified

There is a spiritual battle going on in the world. We need to be aware so that we know when we are being attacked and we need to know how to deal with this spiritual battle. One area of the spiritual battle that we need to be aware of, is to recognize the distinction between being accused and being edified, and the source of each.

Satan is the great accuser. The devil and the world are constantly accusing people. These accusations are things like: you are no good, you can't do anything right, everything bad is your fault, why are you so stupid, who do you think you are anyway, and on and on.

The true God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the great edifier. His edification is things like: you are the greatest, you are loved, you can do all things through Jesus Christ, all things work together for good to those who love God, God has made unto us wisdom, you are God's son – a little lower than Himself, and on and on.

The accusations of the world are all around us and constantly bombarding us. We are accused whether we ask for it or not. On the other hand, God's Word is available to us but we need to

make a conscience effort to put it in our heads and hearts. It is not God's will that we are accused but rather edified.

John 8:2-6

And early in the morning he [Jesus] came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*.

These scribes and Pharisees were accusing this woman and looking for something to accuse Jesus with. This is a big part of how devil spirits operate. They were not there to help this woman or to build her up. They were not there to edify Jesus. Their whole

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purpose was to accuse, to find fault, to blame, and to charge with wrongdoing.

John 8:7-8

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

Jesus Christ did not get caught up in the accusations. He asked God how to handle the situation and he spoke what God told him to say. How to deal with accusations is to deal with them God's way. We deal with accusations by speaking and acting according to God's Word in love.

John 8:9-11

And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

An interesting note is that Verse ten tells us that to accuse is to condemn. According to the Word of God that Jesus spoke, he was the only one with the "right" to accuse the woman, he was the only one without sin. But because he always did the Father's will, he did not accuse her, he did not condemn her. Clearly, to accuse people is not God's will. But Jesus also told her to sin no more. So we should not ignore sin but we also should not accuse people.

Acts 24:1-2a

And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and *with* a certain orator *named* Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul.

And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse *him*, saying...

These men were not trying to help Paul. They were not building him up or edifying him but rather they were accusing him. Verse one says that they were informing the governor against Paul. Accusations are against us. This is in contrast to edification which is for us.

Revelation 12:7-10

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Satan is the great accuser of the brethren who accuses us day and night. Not only is Satan the great accuser but he deceives the world into also becoming accusers. Being an accuser is easy because we all sin and come short of the glory of God. If people are looking for faults and to blame, they will find them. The godly thing to do is to edify. Edification and building up people are God's will.

The way we battle accusations and fight this spiritual battle that wages against us is with God's Word. God has told us in His Word what He thinks of us, who we are in Christ, and that we are righteous in His eyes. We need to stand on that knowledge. We need to put those thoughts

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that we find in God's Word in our heads, and anything contrary to God's Word we toss aside.

Romans 3:21-24

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

God knows we all sin and yet He doesn't accuse us but rather He justifies us freely. Even though we continue to do our best to not sin, we still come up short. And you can be sure that the devil and the world will continue to accuse us in the areas where we come up short. What we need to do in order to counter these accusations is concentrate on our redemption that is in Christ Jesus. We need to think God's Word about ourselves and toss the accusations aside.

Romans 8:30-34

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he

justified, them he also glorified.

What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

God is for us. He predestinated us and called us and justified us and glorified us. If the devil and the world accuse us and are against us, SO WHAT. God is for us. He didn't even spare His own son. God is not going to lay anything to our charge. Christ is not condemning us or accusing us. What a contrast to the accusations of the devil and the world. But it is up to us to put God's Word on in our minds and allow ourselves to be taught and edified by God.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the

life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Christ lives in us. We live by the Christ in us, by believing with respect to the Christ in us. We can do this because Jesus Christ loved us and gave himself for us. How much love does it take to not only die for someone but to give your life for someone. Everything Christ did in his life, he did for us. He has not accused us nor is he going to turn around now and condemn us or accuse us. He is there to build us up, to encourage us, and to give us life. We should not believe accusations that are against us and that tear us down. We need to believe in the Christ in us which is for us and builds us up.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

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To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

These are not accusing words but edifying, loving, and comforting words. We need to be continually reading words from the Word of God or going somewhere where the Word of God is read and taught so that we are built up and made strong against the accusations of the world.

When we are beaten down by the devil and the world and we are feeling like we are no good, we need to go to God's Word and find out what God thinks about us. We cannot take for granted that we know how God feels about us, we need to go to His Word. We have a choice of who to believe, the devil or God. When we chose God we get edified and built up.

Ephesians 2:4, 5
But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Even when we were dead in sins God did not accuse us but made us alive in Christ

Ephesians 2:6-10
And hath raised us up to-

gether, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

These are not accusing words. These words do not beat you down. These are comforting and edifying words. God loves us. Even when we were dead in sins He continued to love us. God has done so much for us and He has great plans for us in the future. And God put His heart and love in writing for us. So if we ever are not sure of what God thinks about us or how much He loves us, we can go to His word and read about it for ourselves.

The following is God's word and will for you. I would like for this to be my prayer for you at this time. No accusations, just a heart's desire to see you grow in

your walk with God and your knowledge of His Word and will.

Colossians 1:9-13

For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

In God's Love
Ray
