

Note: This Work has been made available by the authority of the copyright owner solely for the purpose of private study and research and may not be copied or reproduced except as permitted by the copyright laws of Canada without the written authority from the copyright owner.

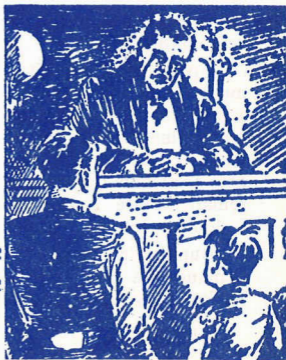
Smith, Oswald J. *The Frenchman's acquittal*. Willowdale, Ontario: The Peoples Church, Toronto, [ca.1950-1959].

The
Frenchman's
ACQUITTAL



by

OSWALD J. SMITH, LL.D.



The Frenchman's Acquittal

By OSWALD J. SMITH, LL.D.



Once upon a time a famous Frenchman was tried for a crime and found guilty. He protested his innocence to the last, but was sentenced, nevertheless, and condemned to life-long imprisonment. Some time later it was discovered that a terrible mistake had been made and that he was innocent after all. Immediately the President of the Republic pardoned him, and quickly the pardon was taken to the prison in which he was confined.

Upon being presented to him, to the amazement of everyone, he refused it. "I don't want a pardon," he exclaimed. "I am not guilty of any crime. How can the President pardon me when I am already innocent? I will have a new trial and be declared innocent, or else I will remain where I am. Away with your pardon. I don't want it." And there he stayed.

But before long his friends got busy. They demanded a new trial, a re-hearing of his case. At last they were successful. He was tried again,

and the verdict rendered this time was "not guilty". He walked out of the court with his head up, and faced the world a free man, having been justified by the courts of France.

That, my friend, is what God can do for you. Not because you are innocent, for "all have sinned" and are guilty, but because Jesus Christ bore the penalty of your guilt in His body on the tree. He died in your stead, took your place, and now, since your sin, all of it, has been imputed to Him, God can justify you, and account you righteous. He can pronounce you "not guilty". You can stand acquitted.

Justification, you see, is the judicial act of God whereby He declares righteous one who believes on Christ. The believer has been in court only to find nothing laid to his charge, because Christ has already borne the full penalty for his sins. Hence, justification is wholly on the ground of Christ's work. "Jesus paid it all." It is by faith, not works.

But justification always leads to reconciliation and the word reconciliation means "to change thoroughly from". For instance, from enmity to love. Man is to be reconciled to God, not God to man. Man is the rebel. And so Paul says, "Be ye reconciled to God".

God's love, you see, is shining on man's back, for man is ever going away from God. Now God beseeches him to be reconciled, to turn around, and be at peace. Not because he has reformed, but because he has been regenerated,

for reconciliation is impossible apart from regeneration, and only life begets life.

Reformation, you see, will not do, for self-improvement does not impart life. It is only by the creative act of the Holy Spirit that you become a partaker of the Divine nature. It is not a changed life that you need; it is a new life. "Ye must be born again." Apart from a new life justification is meaningless, and reconciliation impossible.

Oh, my friend, are you, like the prodigal, turning your back on God? Are you going away? If so, why? Do you want to be a rebel? All this time He has waited, waited for you to come home. He is watching for your return. His heart of love follows you even in your sin. Why don't you turn? Why don't you change your attitude and be reconciled to God?

Do you want to be reconciled? Are you willing now to be justified? Then come to Christ. Come just as you are, a poor, helpless sinner, guilty and condemned, and let Him save you. Will you do it? Do it and do it—NOW.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH, TORONTO
374 Sheppard Avenue East
WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO, CANADA
M2N 3B6

Price 75 cents per 100 or \$6.00 a 1000
Sample Package - 90 kinds - only 75 cents

PRINTED IN CANADA