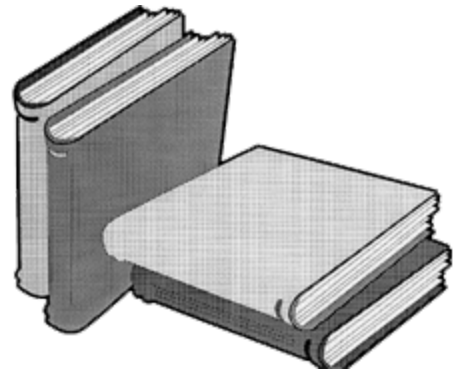


The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,
Collected by Dean Brown



Issue 959b

For Our Full Justification. The Reformation in England. Second of Four.

Because all men be sinners and offenders against God, and breakers of his Law and Commandments, therefore can no man, by his own acts, works, and deeds, seem they [be ever] so good, be justified and made righteous before God: but every man, of necessity, is constrained to seek for another righteousness of justification, to be received at God's own hands; that is to say, the forgiveness of his sins and trespasses, in such things as he hath offended. And this justification or righteousness, which we so receive of God's mercy and Christ's merits, embraced by faith, is taken, accepted, and allowed of God, for our perfect and full justification. ...

God sent his only Son our Saviour Christ into this world, to fulfil the Law for us; and, by [the] shedding of his most precious blood, to make a sacrifice and satisfaction, or, as it may be called, amends to his Father, for our sins...

Three things are required to the obtaining of our righteousness; that is, God's mercy, Christ's justice, and a true and lively faith; out of the which faith spring good works. ...

This sentence, that we are justified by faith only, is not meant [by] them that the said justifying faith is alone in man, without true repentance, hope, charity, dread, and the fear of God. ... Nor when they say that we be justified freely, do they mean that we should or might afterward be idle, and that nothing should be required on our part afterward: neither do they mean so to be justified without our good works... But this saying that we be justified by faith only—freely—and without works, is spoken for to take away clearly all merit of our works...

Homily 3, On the Salvation of Mankind, from *The Book of Homilies*.

A homily is a written sermon for public reading. This homily is "almost certainly" by Thomas Cramner (1489-1556). First published in 1547, this is from an edition of 1833, reprinted 1986. *The Book of Homilies* was a key in the English reformation, for at that time "sermons were rarely preached, and when preached were rarely doctrinally sound or useful."