

# “Just As I Was”

by Robert Hatfield

Untold numbers of people have responded to the Lord’s invitation as the congregation sung the encouraging words “just as I am.” The thought is both comforting and scriptural as one realizes that he or she cannot say, “I am not good enough;” the blood of Jesus Christ is able to cleanse any sinner who obediently responds to the Lord’s invitation. Jesus said, “him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). Referring to himself as “chief of sinners,” Paul gave glory to God that he had obtained mercy and forgiveness (1 Tim. 1:15-17). Yes, any and all who obey the commands of God will be welcomed by the Father and added to the church (Acts 2:47).



**However, it is *not* God’s plan that babes in Christ remain “just as they are.”** In Romans 6, Paul noted the fact that those who have been baptized are “dead to sin” (6:2). In verse four, Paul taught that Christians have been baptized “into death,” that is, they are dead to the world and thus ought to be separate from the world’s sinful circumstances. In fact, said believers have been “born again” (John 3), raised to a “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). Paul said, “if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). The “old things” might well refer to previous views of Christ and fellowman. No longer influenced by the world, Christians are able to clearly see the need for Jesus Christ as man’s Savior, and the necessity of telling the world about His love. This man has “put off the former conversation” of the old man (Eph. 4:22) and is ready to “put on the new man” (Eph. 4:24).

“Just as I am” — He will accept the penitent sinner in whatever state that sinner comes to Him, but that person must be willing to change and to conform to God’s Will. Putting on the new man, walking in newness of life, the child of God will eagerly present himself or herself as “a living sacrifice” (Rom. 12:1); he or she is not offered once, but will be continually offered unto God. This person will seek to draw nearer to the heart of God by daily studying and obeying His word, talking to Him in prayer, and teaching His saving message to the lost world. This Christian is now a servant, a worker, in the Lord’s kingdom, having put his own will aside to take up the Will of the Father.

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