



## *“Here We Stand”*

### DEVOTIONAL

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Hi RHC Saints,

Today's devotion is from John MacDuff, a renowned writer of Christian devotions from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. May this devotion of God's grace and mercy ruminate deeply in your relationship with Him alone who forgives and forgets!

Enjoy  
Pastor Stu

### A GRACIOUS PARDON

by, John MacDuff – 1864

**Isaiah 43:25, "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins!"**

"I – yes, I alone" – the Great, the Pure, the Holy, the Righteous God! Surely if there is one way more than another, in which God's thoughts are not as man's thoughts, it is this – pardoning the *rebel*, welcoming the *undeserving*, forgiving and forgetting! How we remember the sins and the failings of others! How we harbor the recollection of ingratitude or unkindness. **We say, "I forgive – but I cannot forget." God does both.** Forgiveness is with Him no effort; it is a delight, "The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness' sake."

"I – yes, I alone" – the God who for weeks and months, and, it may be, for years, we have been wearying with our iniquities, whose Book of Remembrance is crowded with the record of our guilt; "I – yes, I alone" – the very Being who has registered that guilt – is ready to take the recording pen and erase the pages thus blotted with transgression!

How can He thus forgive? How can the God who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity – cancel the handwriting that is against us in these volumes of transgression, so that they are remembered no more? It is through the atoning work of Jesus.

"The Son of man has power to forgive sins." He shed His precious blood that He might have a right to say, "**Your sins, which are many — are all forgiven!**" What a complete erasure! Crimson sins, scarlet sins; sins against grace, love, warning, and privilege — see them all cast into the depths of the sea, never again to be washed on shore!

"Whatever our *guiltiness* is yet when it falls into the *sea of God's mercy* — it is but like a drop of blood fallen into the great ocean." The ancients said there was nothing so pure as *snow*. But we know of something purer — a human soul washed in the blood of Christ!

**What is the impelling MOTIVE with God in so wondrous a forgiveness as this?** It is, it can be — **nothing He sees in us.** No repentance, however sincere; no good works, however imposing or splendid. **It is His own free sovereign grace!** "For My own sake!" "Thus, says the Lord God, I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel; but for My holy Name's sake." If He had meted out retribution in proportion to our deserts, His thoughts towards us must have been of evil, not of peace — our blood would, long before now, have been mingled with our sacrifices. But He is God, and not man. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed." "O Israel you have destroyed yourself — but in Me is your help found."

Most wondrous chapter in the volume of God's thoughts — **His full, free, unconditional, everlasting forgiveness of the guilty and undeserving!** All the most gigantic thoughts of man look poor and shabby after this. God, the just God — yet the Savior — just, in **justifying the ungodly.**

Lord! I accept the gracious overture of pardon. I joyfully repose on this thought of Your forgiving mercy. "My debt is very great, neither can I pay anything thereof myself. But I trust in the riches and graciousness of my Surety. Let Him free me, who became surety for me, who has taken my debt upon Himself." Yes, He has taken my debt! Think of God, not only willing to blot out and bury in oblivion a guilty past — but hear Him giving the assurance that the legion-sins are already cancelled. The debt has been discharged — the wages paid. He makes it an argument for immediate return and acceptance, "**I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your transgressions, and, as a cloud, your sins!** Return unto Me — for I have redeemed you!" What can we say about such wonderful things as these? "**If God is for us — who can ever be against us?**"

**John Ross Macduff** (23 May 1818 – 30 April 1895) was a Scottish pastor and a prolific author of religious essays. He published many practical and devotional works which attained a wide circulation. Macduff was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and was ordained as minister in 1843. He preached at a church in Sandyford for fifteen years (until 1870), and then went to live in Chislehurst, Kent, in order to focus entirely on writing. His best-known books are "The Prophet of Fire", "Memories of Bethany", "Memories of Gennesaret", "The Shepherd and His Flock", "Sunset on the Hebrew Mountains", "Comfort Ye", "The Golden Gospel", "Morning and Night Watches", "The Bow in the Cloud", "The Story of a Dewdrop", and "The Story of a Shell."