Checking Your Credit Report

**Read:** Isaiah 52:6-15

**Text:** Isaiah 52:12b “…for the LORD will go before you; and the God

of Israel *will be* your rereward.”

**Introduction:** Have you ever checked your credit report? Every bank account, every loan and every major transaction is usually on there. I found bank accounts that I had forgotten I even had. I did notice that they had a zero balance and that I did remember. That is not the kind of credit report that I am going to preach about. I want to talk about who gets the credit for what occurs in our lives. Who gets the credit when things go well? and who gets the blame when things don’t? Is it the same person?

**I. Who gets the credit for sins being forgiven?** Psalm 25:11 says: “For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it *is* great.” Psalm 79:9 says : “Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.” I John 2:12 says: “I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.”

“But, pastor, what about our responsibility? Don’t we have the res-

ponsibility to pray and ask for forgiveness? Isn’t it the duty of the sin-

ner to ask for forgiveness? If I never asked then He could not save me.

So logically I should get some credit.” Whew! You got me there! No

you didn’t. Look at John 6:44: “No man can come to me, except the

Father which hath sent me draw him…” God the Father starts the pro-

cess, man Responds and God The Son completes the forgiveness of

our sin. We are saved for His Name’s sake.

**II. Who gets the credit for God continuing to stand with us?** I Sam-

uel 12:22 says: “For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his peo-ple. Isaiah 48:9 says: “For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.”

“But, pastor, what about all those verses that tell us how to please God? Don’t I get credit for living right and pleasing God? God is showing me favor because I am living right. I should get some credit for that.” Our text points out that God is ahead of us and behind us so what credit do we deserve when He is our helper? Do you really think that you are so righteous that God cannot get along without you?

**III. Who gets the credit for helping us when we’re in trouble?**

“Pastor I don’t need anybody, when I’m in trouble I just work my

way out of it. Ezekiel said: (Ezekiel 20:44) “And ye shall know that I

*am* the LORD when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not

according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings,

O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.” Psalm 109:21 says: “But

do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy

mercy *is* good, deliver thou me.” and Psalm 143:11 says: “Quicken

me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring

my soul out of trouble.” Ezekiel 36:22 “Therefore say unto the house

of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not *this* for your sakes, O

house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned

among the heathen, whither ye went.”

**IV. Who gets the credit when we get it right?** The 23rd psalm could all be quoted here but let me just cite the 3rd verse. “He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.” In the 31st chapter David tells us: “For thou *art* my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.”

**Conclude:** “Pastor, don’t I get the credit for anything?” Yes you do! You can be credited for responding to the Holy Spirit and accepting the offer of His grace. You may also be credited with yielding to Him daily and accepting His ability to work through you.

Who gets the credit in your credit report this morning?