




In Christ alone
MY HOPE



is found

A photograph of a wooden step in a light blue corner. A sticker is applied to the wall between two steps.

**THE
NAUGHTY
STEP**

Robert Burns,
the 'cutty stool'
and Holy
Wullie's Prayer



▶ Outward Religion

- A proud Jew (v17)
- Grounded in the law (v17)
- Bragging about a relationship with God
- Making good outward choices (v18)
- Outward expression of covenant (v18)
- Supposed teacher and guide of others (v19)




MORALISM

A seemingly God-sanctioned right living without the fullness of inner substance




Exposed Sin

- Theft
- Adultery
- Idolatry
- Etc.




“You call yourself a born-again Christian and you are sure you are right with God because you signed a commitment card, or prayed a prayer, and you really cried that night. You remember you had strong feelings for God, so you must have been converted. And you have memorised many scripture verses and know the answers to many questions...



“And you’ve led other people to make a commitment to Christ in the Bible Study. And you want to get into the Bible – that’s why you’re reading ‘Romans For You’!”

Timothy Keller paraphrase of v17 - 20




How do we know if
this is us?


And how to we
deal with it?

Inward Change

- The intimate sign of covenant – circumcision
- Circumcision of the heart
- Christ, our circumcision
(Mark 15: 34, Isaiah 53:8)



‘So what if you are baptised? So what if you are a church member? This only counts for anything if there has been a real change in your life, if your heart has been truly affected. Don’t you know that you are not a Christian if you are only one externally, that real Christianity is not about having confidence in external things?’



No, a Christian is someone who is a Christian inside; what matters is inner baptism, a heart-membership of God's people. And this is a supernatural work, not a human one.

Timothy Keller paraphrase of 25 - 29



Our Challenge

- Search your heart
- Are you covering up for it with outward appearance? Is it all outward?
- Does it beat for Christ alone?
- Are you trusting Him alone?