

YOUR FATHER IS WATCHING YOU
MATTHEW 6:1-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. We enjoy a special relationship with God. (Matt. 5.16,45,48)
2. **MATTHEW 6.1:** *“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.”*
3. There are three good deeds that God is watching.

I. GOD IS WATCHING HOW YOU GIVE

- A. **MATTHEW 6.2:** *“Therefore, when you do a charitable deed”*
 1. **MATTHEW 6.2:** *“do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do”* Those who seek the praise of men.
 2. **MATTHEW 6.3,4:** *“and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”* God sees your giving!
- B. What does God see when you give?
 1. Does God see a willing heart? (Ex. 35.21; 36.6,7)
 2. Does God see a stingy heart? (Mal. 3.8,9)

II. GOD IS WATCHING HOW YOU PRAY

- A. **MATTHEW 6.5:** *“And when you pray”*
 1. **MATTHEW 6.5:** *“you shall not be like the hypocrites.”* Those who seek the praise of men.
 2. **MATTHEW 6.6:** *“your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”* God sees you pray!
- B. What does God see when you pray?
 1. Does God see one who does not pray? (Job 21.15)
 2. Does God see one who depends of prayer? (Ps. 69.13)

III. GOD SEES IS WATCHING HOW YOU FAST

- A. **MATTHEW 6.16:** *“Moreover, when you fast”*
 1. Fasting was a time of deep contemplation. (Ps. 35.13)
 2. **MATTHEW 6.16:** *“do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance.”* Those who seek the praise of men.
 3. **MATTHEW 6.17,18:** *“your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”* God sees you fast!
- B. What does God see when you fast? (Isa 58.3-5; Neh. 1.4)

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **FEBRUARY 13, 2022**
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 13, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

IS THE LORD’S HAND TOO SHORT?

The question that is asked relates to God’s ability to save. If God is all-powerful as the Bible describes Him, then why does He not just swoop down and save all of mankind? Why does He require us to go through the process of meeting the conditions of the gospel when He could just snap His fingers and bring everyone to heaven?

Such a question is not an uncommon one and is answered by God Himself. To the prophet Isaiah, God said, *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that He cannot hear”* (Isa. 59.1). Earlier, when God called Israel to receive salvation no one came. He considered that the reason for their absence is because they had no confidence in God’s power. Therefore He asks rhetorically, *“Is My hand shortened that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver”* (Isa. 50.2)?

The reason God does not save all man automatically has nothing to do with His lack of ability and has everything to do with the will of man. Just as God gives man the freedom to sin and put himself in a lost condition, God also gives man the freedom to accept or refuse His salvation. While God’s hand is not shortened, He states that man has decided not to come to God for salvation (Isa. 50.2), and to separate himself from God by sinning (Isa. 59.2).

The grace of God is made available to everyone. However, it is up to man to accept and receive the grace of God by meeting the conditions of the gospel (Rom. 6.17). CLP

THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN

GENESIS 6:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. I believe in the global flood for two reasons:
 - a) God is truthful. (Heb. 6.18; Titus 1.2; John 17.17)
 - b) God is powerful. (Jer. 32.27)
2. The condition of humanity prior to the flood emphasizes the seriousness of sin and its consequences. [READ GENESIS 6.1-8]

I. THE CAUSE OF SIN

- A. Sin is caused by negative influence. (Gen. 6.1,2)
 1. **GENESIS 6.2:** *“the sons of God.”* A reference to those who were faithful. (Matt. 5.9; Gal. 3.26; Gen. 5.26)
 2. **GENESIS 6.2:** *“the daughters of men.”* A reference to those who were wicked.
 3. **GENESIS 6.4:** *“they bore children.”*
- B. Individuals can be lost or saved based on who they chose to marry. (Gen. 3.6; 1 Kings 11.4; 1 Cor. 7.16)
 1. We are to be a positive influence. (Rom. 12.21)
 2. You are the best chance your spouse has. (1 Pet. 3.1,2,7)

II. THE COST OF SIN

- A. The corruption of man.
 1. **GENESIS 6.5:** *“the wickedness of man was great”*
 2. **GENESIS 6.11,12:** *“The earth also was corrupt”*
- B. The contrition of God.
 1. **GENESIS 6.6:** *“And the LORD was sorry...”*
 2. **GENESIS 6.6:** *“and He was grieved in His heart.”*
 3. Why? God cares for His creation. (cf. Luke 15.20)
- C. The catastrophic event.
 1. **GENESIS 6.7:** *“I will destroy man whom I have created”*
 2. There is another ELE coming. (2 Pet. 3.6,7,10,11)

III. THE CURE FOR SIN

- A. **GENESIS 6.8:** *“But Noah found grace...”*
 1. Definition of grace. (Eph. 2.4-7; Titus 3.4-7)
 2. Condition of grace. (Gen. 6.9,14,22; 7.1)
 3. Extension of grace. (Gen. 6.3; 1 Pet. 3.20; 2 Pet. 2.5)
- B. We are saved by grace. (Titus 2.11; 2 Pet. 3.9; Rom. 5.1,2)

CONCLUSION: Sin is serious, but you can be saved.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN: BAPTISM

The Bible teaches us that there will be a day when Jesus comes again *“in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Thess. 1.8). Therefore, it is essential that we understand how to be saved from eternal condemnation.

If faith is the most misunderstood concepts of the Bible, then baptism is the most controversial. There is no subject that is more widely debated than baptism. Is baptism necessary for salvation? When should someone be baptized? Is baptism for the remission of sins or a sign to indicate previous salvation. Is baptism performed by sprinkling, pouring, immersion? What does the Bible actually say about baptism?

We will not be able to answer all the questions related to baptism, but there is one point that we must grasp. Baptism is essential for salvation. You cannot go to heaven unless you are baptized (the exception being those who are innocent such as infants). There are a number of passages that teach us that baptism saves. Consider three such passages.

First, we can turn to Acts 2.38 which tells us to *“repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* No one would argue that repentance is essential for the remission of sins. This passage tells us that repentance AND baptism is for the purpose of receiving the remission of sins. You cannot have forgiveness unless you are baptized.

Second, we can turn to Acts 22.16 which says to *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* Notice the connection between being baptized and washing away your sins. Ananias tells Paul that when he is baptized, the result will be the washing away of his sins. You cannot wash away your sins without baptism.

Third, we can turn to 1 Peter 3.21 which says that *“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism...”* Can it be any clearer? This passage says that baptism saves us. You cannot be saved without being baptized.

With such an important subject, the salvation of our souls, God is not ambiguous. We must hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized if we want to be among the saved. Have you obeyed the gospel? CLP