

"FATHER FORGIVE THEM"

LUKE 23:34

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus was silent through most of His trial and death. (Isa. 53.7)
2. Jesus cared for the lost, and wanted them to be saved.
3. **LUKE 23.34:** *"Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.'"*

I. THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN

- A. Sin is no longer considered a serious matter today.
 1. Sin is not serious to those who establish their own moral standards. Everyone has their own rules. (Matt. 4.4)
 2. Sin is no longer serious because of the misunderstanding and misapplication of grace. (Rom. 6.1; 1 John 1.7)
 3. Sin is not serious because of ignorance. (Luke 23.34)
- B. What does the Bible say about sin committed in ignorance?
 1. Peter commanded the Jews to repent even though their sins were committed in ignorance. (Acts 3.14-19)
 2. Once a year a religious ceremony was practiced *"for sins committed in ignorance"* (Heb. 9.7-9)

II. THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD

- A. **LUKE 23.34:** *"Father forgive them..."*
 1. Who is Jesus referencing? Jews? Romans? (Acts 2.23)
 2. Forgive (aphiemi): "To send away from." Jesus is asking God to free the sinner from the bondage of sin.
- B. God is willing to forgive me of the bad decisions that I have made in my past. (1 John 3.4; 5.17)
 1. God is willing to forgive because Jesus has redeemed me having satisfied the justice of God. (Eph. 1.7)
 2. God is willing to forgive because Jesus has shed His cleansing blood on the cross. (Heb. 9.11,12,22)
- C. How can I be forgiven of sins when I am not aware that I have committed them? (1 John 1.7-9; Ps. 19.12)

CONCLUSION: Sin is serious, but God is willing to forgive.

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JANUARY 28, 2024

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

January 28, 2024

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

CAN GOD FORGET?

On the surface, this question should be easy to answer. The Bible is replete with passages which state clearly that *"I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more"* (Jer. 31.34; Heb. 10.17). However, the question becomes a little more complicated than that when you consider the omniscience of God. Indeed, God is one who knows all things and is capable of remembering every detail of every act of every person for all eternity. How can a God so powerful and wise be capable of forgetting?

Let's consider the example of Paul. He wrote, *"forgetting those things which are behind"* (Phil. 3.14). Paul did not forget his past. He referred to it frequently (Gal. 1.13; 1 Cor. 15.9; 1 Tim. 1.12,13). Yet Paul did not hold his past over his head and wallow in self-pity. Instead, he started anew as an apostle and preacher of the gospel of Jesus. To forget is not to erase it from your memory. It is to no longer give consideration to it.

God may still recall the sins that we have committed, but He no longer holds us accountable for them. They are no longer held over our heads (Isa. 43.25). We are to do the same thing when someone wrongs us. Through the blood of Christ, we are able to enjoy the forgiveness of sin which are no longer held against us. CLP

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

2 PETER 3:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. It will be a day of great wonderment. [Read 1 Thess. 4.16-18]
 - a) It will be a day of great sights. (1 Thess. 4.16)
 - b) It will be a day of great sounds. (1 Thess. 4.16)
 - c) It will be a day of great sensations. (1 Thess. 4.17)
2. Are you looking for the day when Jesus comes again?

I. THOSE WHO ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THAT DAY

- A. Those who are not looking because they are scoffers.
 1. **2 PETER 3.1-3:** The word of God predicted the coming of Jesus, but *“scoffers will come in the last days.”*
 2. Today, there are individuals who do not believe in Jesus.
- B. Those who are not looking because of immorality.
 1. **2 PETER 3.3:** *“walking according to their own lusts”*
 2. Today, there are individuals who are not looking for the coming of Christ because it requires change.
- C. Those who are not looking because of different beliefs.
 1. **2 PETER 3.4:** *“since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”*
 2. The Holy Spirit corrects their beliefs. (2 Pet. 3.6,7)
 3. Today, there are individuals who have different beliefs.

II. THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THAT DAY

- A. We should be looking for the unexpected.
 1. **2 PETER 3.8-10:** *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night”*
 2. We must always be prepared. (Matt. 24.43,44)
- B. We should be looking for a day of total destruction.
 1. **2 PETER 3.10:** *“the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat”*
 2. The coming of Christ will mean the end of all things.
- C. We should be looking to ourselves with self-examination.
 1. **2 PETER 3.11:** *“what manner of persons ought you to be?”* Rhetorically, how are our lives to be lived?
 2. Holy conduct: Live separate from the world. (Eph. 5.11)
 3. Godliness: Live with respect for God.

CONCLUSION: Is the coming of Christ a day you are hastening or a day you are delaying? (2 Pet. 3.12,13)

STRIVING OVER WORDS

It is so easy to get caught up in controversy arguing over issues that have no relevance on one's own salvation, nor has any conclusive answer in scripture. Perhaps this is why the apostle Paul instructed the young preacher to *“Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.”*

Notice that Paul warned about *“striving about over words.”* This phrase is translated from the single Greek word “logomacheo” and carries the idea of going to war over the meaning of words. In his second epistle to Timothy, he described him as being *“obsessed with disputes and arguments over words.”* (1 Tim. 6.4). To Titus, Paul warned to *“avoid foolish disputes...and strivings about the law”* (Titus 3.9). The one who is putting together a string of passages which do not relate to each other to support a preconceived idea or emphasize a point that is irrelevant is the one Paul warns about in each of his epistles to preachers.

He then goes on to describe the striving about words as having *“no profit.”* (2 Tim. 2.14). It is important to note that the words contained in Scripture are never *“to no profit.”* Jesus taught that we to live *“by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matt. 4.4). Later Jesus said that *“the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”* (John 6.63). After Paul warned Timothy about those who *“strive about words to no profit,”* he then writes about how important it is to study the Bible accurately (2 Tim. 2.15).

Strife occurs when individuals start arguing about issues that have no bearing on one's salvation or are not answered by clear biblical passages. Paul referred to them as *“disputes over doubtful things”* (Rom. 14.1). As a preacher I am told to warn the brethren not to engage in such activities (2 Tim. 2.14), and when they occur, I am not to be a part of them (Titus 3.9). Why? Paul explains.

These kinds of disputes and arguments are to be avoided because they result in *“the ruin of the hearer”* (2 Tim. 2.14). The word “ruin” comes from two Greek words. The first one is “kata” which is the word for “down.” The second word is “stepho” which is the word for “turn.” When you put them together you have “katastephe” from which we get our English word “catastrophe.” It is the same word that described what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Pet. 2.6). Later Paul warned about those who were not teaching the truth about the resurrection *“and they overthrow the faith of some”* (2 Tim. 2.18). How catastrophic it would be if someone's faith is overthrown because we insist on arguing over issues that are outside of biblical revelation.

We all must be careful not to make an issue over things the Bible does not make as issue. Instead we must use the word of God to *“cast down arguments”* (2 Cor. 10.4,5).