

WHY WE CAN BE FORGIVEN

Forgiveness is of such importance to each of us that we must realize that the basis for our forgiveness is the Cross of Jesus Christ. We can be forgiven only on the basis of what Jesus did on our behalf. Before Jesus suffered and died on the Cross, Isaiah the prophet gave us a picture of what He was to do and why He was to do it. In Isaiah 53 Isaiah describes the suffering death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

" Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:4-6

That is the basis of God's forgiveness. It does not compromise His justice. The justice of God was fully and finally satisfied because Jesus became our substitute and took our iniquity, our rebelliousness, and our guilt. Isaiah and Paul both emphasize that none are excluded from the need of forgiveness. [Romans 3:23]

It may not be some atrocious crime of murder or rape that each of us is guilty of, but Isaiah says that we have all gone astray. We have all turned to our own way. We have been rebellious. We have been self-pleasers. We have lived by our own standards. We have robbed God of His glory. This is all summed up in one strong word of scripture, iniquity.

But thanks be to God, the Lord laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. The Hebrew word that is translated " laid on Him" is a vivid word. It means " made to meet together on Him". All of the sins, all the burdens of men, all the guilt, of all ages, of all races, past, present, and future, came and met together upon the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as He hung on the Cross.

Jesus did not die for His own sin. He never sinned. Jesus was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.

Please take note how closely linked healing and forgiveness are. Many times people are seeking healing, when what they really need is forgiveness before they can be healed. It is also true that, at times God does heal people who are not forgiven as yet. We also see that the consequence of forgiveness is peace. Because Jesus was punished on the Cross for our sin, God offers us peace and reconciliation. On the Cross, Jesus was our substitute.

We cannot earn our forgiveness. Period..

In Romans, chapter 4, Paul bases his teaching on the experience of Abraham. Paul points out that Abraham did not earn his relationship with God. Abraham was justified because he believed, not because of what he did. Read Romans 4:1-5

If we lead perfectly good lives then we would have received the reward of righteousness as a due. But Paul says because none of us has led perfect lives, we cannot claim it as a due. We have to receive it out of God's graciousness as a free gift to us. Paul then goes on to quote the words of David in Psalm 32. He talks about "blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." [verses 1-2] When we receive Christ and what He did for us at Calvary; our sins will never be counted against us...

Paul continues by telling us in Romans Chapter 4:20-25 that it is Christ who was raised to life for our justification. As we put our faith in what Jesus did for us at Calvary this becomes a reality for us. We are justified through faith in the death of Jesus on our behalf. When all our sins are forgiven us because of our faith in Jesus, we are reckoned righteous with the very righteousness of Jesus Himself.

When God forgives us through our faith in Christ, He does not partially forgive us. God totally forgives us. Lets look at Micah 7:18-19. "Who is a God like unto you, who pardons iniquity, and passes by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Isn't that so beautiful? Everything that we have ever done wrong-- everything that could ever make us feel guilty, every accusation that the enemy could ever bring against us-- God treads them under foot and then hurls them into the depths of the sea. If God has forgiven you then you are forgiven.

God's forgiveness is total. In Isaiah 43:25 God speaks to His people: "I, even I, am He Who blots out your transgressions for My Own sake, and will not remember your sins." When God forgives us, He gives us a clean record. It is as though what has been forgiven had never taken place. Not only does God blot out the record, but He blots it out from His own memory. He says that He will not remember our sins any more. When God forgives, He forgets... All because of Calvary...

Rev. Len Paxton

The Cross of Calvary: a great Breakthrough

CALVARY: THE GREAT BREAKTHROUGH

by Rev. Len Paxton

Calvary is a place of triumph and victory. What Jesus accomplished on the Cross of Calvary is the culmination of God's Divine plan to redeem mankind from sin and death. It is here that we find the central point of new life. Jesus said "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." [St John 12:24] Jesus was that seed that died and brought forth many into the Kingdom of God. See Isaiah 53:10-11 The sacrifice for the sins of all mankind was provided for and completed by Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary. This was and is redemptions plan. In Galatians 3:13 we read; "Christ hath [that means has already] redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is everyone that

hangeth on a tree.” Our redemption that Christ paid for is complete. It is a finished work. If you have been born-again then you are God’s redeemed child. At the Cross, Jesus paid the full price for the penalty of man’s sins and He also forever broke the grip of sin over mankind. Jesus Christ is the double cure for the double curse. This is our message at Acts 26:18 Prayer Chapel Fellowship. Nothing needs to be added to what Jesus Christ has done for us at Calvary. We, as believers, can walk in freedom from the grip of sin in our daily lives as well as knowing that our penalty of sin has been paid by Jesus Christ upon the Cross. If we are “In Him” then we don’t have to try to be victorious, we ARE victorious because He is. Refer in your reading to Romans Ch.6 In order for us to live out this great redemption reality, our faith must be properly placed in what Jesus has done for us at the Cross. Remember this, Do Not Make A Christ Out Of Your Faith. But rather place your faith in Christ. Look at this Scripture: ” Who hath [has already] delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath [has already] translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son: In Whom we have redemption through His Blood, even the forgiveness of sins” [Col 1:13-14] This was and is a great breakthrough for mankind. It was all done for us by Jesus Christ on the Cross. The message of the true church is the message of the Cross. Jesus broke us out; ” delivered us from the powers of darkness” And Jesus broke us through ” hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son”. Praise the Lord. This is our breakthrough into Divine favor and newness of life. Our redemption is more than a mere promise, it is a settled fact. When we place our faith in the finished work of Christ upon the Cross, the Holy Spirit then brings to pass in us what Christ has already done for us.

GOD ON BOTH SIDES WITH US IN THE MIDDLE. Part One

Romans 6:1- " What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

6:2- God Forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

The finished work of Jesus Christ upon the Cross is our victory over sin, just as it is God's method of salvation. Salvation and victory over sin can only be brought about as one puts their faith one hundred percent in what Jesus did at Calvary. It was on the Cross where Jesus paid the penalty for sin and broke the power of sin.

Jesus victory there at Calvary becomes our victory when we place our faith in His finished work.

A simple outline would be as follows: 1- Jesus paid it all at the Cross; When we place 2- Our faith in what He did at the Cross, the 3- Holy Spirit will the help us and do His work within our lives. So there we have it! 1- The Cross 2- Our faith and 3- The Holy Spirit.

This is God on both sides and us in the middle.. How could we possibly lose if we are surrounded by God ? Glory to God!!!

The Christian life is a work of the Holy Spirit within us. [Galatians 2:20]

We can never live this Christian life as we should without the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit only has the legal right to help us if our faith is in what Jesus did for us at the Cross.

If a believer places his/her faith in good works of any nature, the Holy Spirit can never honor that. That is flesh. The Holy Spirit will not anoint the flesh.

The problem that each of us face in our lives is sin. Sin comes in many complexities and forms.

Even though we, as believers have been freed from the old sinful nature, God has allowed it to remain dormant within us for some very specific reasons that we will not discuss here.

One thing I will say about that though, is the Lord want us to continually look to Him for our daily walk of victory and, in fact, all that we need. We need to learn to trust the Lord always.

The Christian must always depend upon the Lord for everything. We must never place faith in self.

Sin is serious and so severe that we cannot confess it away by positive confession. We cannot even pray it away. Jesus dealt with the sin problem at Calvary. We must exhibit faith in Him.

The devil will continue to tempt us but our victory is in the finished work of Christ upon the Cross. We must always place our confidence in what Jesus has done and not in what we are doing. This is not to say that we don't do proper works. As the Holy Spirit does His work within us; proper works on our behalf will be the result. [Eph. 2:10 & Philippians 2:13]

Proper faith will always produce proper works in the child of God. But it will only happen if our faith is one hundred percent in the Cross of Christ. We must never trust in anything else.

When we properly place our faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross, the Holy Spirit will give birth to many good works within us--- But our faith must never be in what we do, rather in what Jesus has done.

There were those in the church at Rome who believed that sin didn't matter anymore because they were under grace, but our text refutes that thinking. Lets also look at Romans 6:14

" For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." See, grace is what gives us the power to stop sinning. Grace is not a license to keep sinning; it is the power to stop. The grace of God doesn't mean freedom to sin; it is freedom from sin. Hallelujah !!!

" Christ in you, the hope of glory:" [Colossians 1:27] produces Christlikeness and holiness in the true believer, but this will only happen if our faith is in what Jesus did at the Cross. Salvation, sanctification, holiness and whatever else is needed by the believer from the Lord, can only come to us by and through the Cross. There is no other way. This is the message of the Gospel.

The way that the child of God is to obtain victory over sin and also, to walk free from sin, is the same way that they got saved. Colossians 2:6 states, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him." Simple faith in what Jesus did at Calvary is all that is required. Then, the Holy Spirit comes and works His work within us. Praise God!

Rev. Len Paxton

GOD ON BOTH SIDES WITH US IN THE MIDDLE. Part Two

Romans 6:2 asks the believer this question: "How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

The born again child of God has been, in the mind of God, crucified with Christ, buried, and risen with Christ to newness of life. [Romans 6: 3-4]

When we are born again, there is a spiritual transformation that takes place within us. [Romans 6:5]

Romans 6:6 tells us "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Praise God, we are free from the dominion of the sin nature and we no longer have to serve the sin nature as slaves to it, all because of what Jesus did at the Cross and our faith in that.

Look at Romans 6:7 "For he that is dead is freed from sin." If we are in Christ, we are dead to the sin nature as well as free from the sin nature and also, acts of sin in our daily lives.

Our old sinful nature, while remaining in the believer, should have no power over us. We are dead to it. Hallelujah !!!

The way that the Christian can cause the sin nature to come roaring back to life in them is when they commit an act of sin and then try to get victory over it by their own efforts. You will be defeated every time you do that. Keep your faith in the finished work of Christ upon the Cross and realize that, in the mind of God, you were crucified with Him. You were buried with Him, and you were raised to newness of life in Christ.

The Expositors Study Bible notes for Romans 6: 3-4 says this "When Christ died on the Cross, in the mind of God, we died with Him; in other words, He became our Substitute, and our identification with Him in His death gives us all the benefits for which He died; the idea is that He did it all for us Not only did we die with Him, but we were buried with Him as well, which means that all the sin and transgression of the past were buried; when they put Him in the tomb, they put all of our sins into that tomb as well. we died with Him, we were buried with Him, and His Resurrection was our Resurrection to a "Newness of Life".

All of this is made a reality in our lives when we place our faith in what Jesus did at the Cross and that alone!

Galatians 3:13 tells us that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. The law can never change our hearts, therefore, while it can and most certainly does, define sin; the law is powerless to give us victory over sin or make us stop sinning. It took the substitutionary death of Christ on the Cross to both pay the penalty for sin and to break the power that sin had over man. When we identify with Him in this; we can walk in a life of perpetual victory over the sin nature as well as acts of sin.

Jesus said, as recorded in the Gospel of John; " And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." [Jn 8:32] That is why we preach the message of the Cross. God wants us free today.

Rev. Len Paxton

GOOD WORKS by Rev. Len Paxton

Ephesians 2:10 tells us "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" This verse taken in context, tells us that we are justified, sanctified, and saved by the finished work of Christ upon the Cross. When we receive what Christ did for us at Calvary, we become "born-again". Every born-again believer is the very workmanship of Christ. When our faith is properly placed in the Cross then we are assured of the help of the Holy Spirit as He conforms us into the image of Jesus. We are told in this verse that we should walk in good works. Good works do not produce faith. But, proper faith will always produce proper works. So, the believer, walking in good works birthed of the Holy Spirit in the believers heart, is proof of that believers properly placed faith in the finished work of Christ upon the Cross. [See James 2: 14-26] .My faith properly placed in the finished work of Christ upon the Cross will result in the help of the Holy Spirit in my life. Proper faith will produce proper works but proper works will never produce proper faith. Romans 8:29 tells us that every believer is predestinated to be conformed into the image of Christ. This can only be done by the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Good works, acceptable to God, will flow from our hearts and lives, when we place our faith in Jesus sacrifice on the Cross.

Our Works do not add to our righteousness. We should never attempt to do so. Our righteousness comes 100% from what Jesus did at the Cross and when we place our faith in that the very righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to us. I have a CD teaching on this called "The Outflow Of The Sanctification Process". If would like to obtain a copy of it, simply write me and ask for it by name. A love offering would be greatly appreciated.

THE WARFARE IS ACCOMPLISHED AT CALVARY

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. [IS 40:1-2]

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, IT IS FINISHED: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.
[St John 19:30]

As long as you and I live in the body we will face challenges and struggles. It is a story as old as time. But on the Cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ won the victory for all who will place their faith in Him. During hard and difficult times I do not have to lose my peace and joy because Christ is my peace and joy as well as everything I need. The world around me may be shaking and falling apart at the seams but as a Christian, my confidence is in what Jesus has provided for me.

With faith and patience we inherit the promises [Hebrews 6:12]. Jesus has already defeated the powers of Satan on the Cross [Colossians 2:15]. Because of Calvary, we can have a clean heart and walk in the purity and righteousness of the Word of God. The battle is no longer our battle but the Lord's battle.

Here are several things to consider when you are in a battle and waiting for the victory to manifest itself in your life.

- 1- Satan can cause a battle to happen, but he cannot determine the final outcome.
- 2- Your reaction to the trouble will determine if God, or the enemy, is allowed to work in the situation.
- 3- A setback is only temporary and not final. A small defeat is no sign that the enemy has won.
- 4- God has already set a day, hour, and moment for you to come out of your fiery furnace. You must keep your faith in what Jesus did for you at the Cross until you see the victory take place.
- 5- God calls this fight "the good fight of faith" [2 Timothy 4:7] A good fight is a fight that is already won. God says to us through Calvary "The warfare is already accomplished!!"

God is never surprised when conflict comes to us. He already knew all about it before Satan even began his strategy. The Lord wants us to keep our faith in Him at all times. The victory is already WON!!!

God says "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." [Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV].

Every battle is already predetermined that YOU come forth the victor, because Jesus is the victor...

When the battle comes, some give up, give in and lose heart. Only then can satan take advantage of us.

Faith in what Jesus did at Calvary will ensure a completed victory.

The warfare is accomplished at Calvary!

Len Paxton

Some Results of Deliverance from Sin

Lets take a look at Romans 8:14-16. " For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Ab'-ba, Father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

We see listed here 5 immediate results of deliverance from sin.

1-We are led by the Spirit of God.

2-We are the children of God.

3-We no longer have the spirit of bondage.

4-We have received the Spirit of adoption.

5-The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit to these facts.

When the great Apostle Paul said that we are led by the Spirit of God, he was also saying that we are no longer led by our old sinful nature. Even though the sinful nature still abides within our lives, it no longer controls us if we are led by the Spirit of God.

We cannot be led by the Spirit and the flesh at the same time. It is one or the other at any given moment. We must learn to walk in the Spirit on a consistent basis. We do this by placing our faith 100 percent in what Jesus did for us at the Cross. If we look to our own ability, our own strength, our own efforts; that is walking in the flesh. Being led by the flesh is any system, rule, or law, that we or someone else originates that is intended to lead us into victory.

Most of the time, these little laws and rules sound very religious and appear very good. But God will never honor that which man devises. The Spirit of God will always lead us to victory. The flesh will always lead us to defeat.

When Paul mentions the spirit of bondage that causes fear, he is saying that when we resort to the flesh to serve God, we will be automatically placed in bondage to the flesh.

We do not wish to be in bondage to religious rules, regulations, and man-made laws. This brings fear because we will consistently fail if we attempt to live by law and walk in the flesh. To stay under man-made laws is an evidence of pride. Just like Cain, we want God to accept whatever we offer Him. The proper offering is faith in the shed Blood of Jesus, not our religious shibboleths.

The very moment we came to the Lord Jesus Christ, we received the Spirit of adoption. We are to now walk in the Spirit by placing our faith in what Jesus did for us at the Cross. Whereas we were once the children of Adam's fallen race; Now, by our faith in Jesus death on the Cross, we are adopted back into the family of God. We now can say, "Father God"... Hallelujah!!

The constant bearing of witness with our spirit by the Holy Spirit tells us and keeps on telling us, you are a child of God.

The key to all victory for a Christian is to put their faith in what Jesus did at the Cross and then, leave it there. Do not transfer your faith to any formula, ritual, law, rule, or anything else; Keep your faith solidly anchored in the Cross of Calvary and the work that Jesus there did.

by Rev. Len Paxton

THE OLD PATHS

[Jeremiah 6:16-19] " Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O Earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."

The Church of Jesus Christ is at a modern day Crossroads. The word that is translated "ways" here indicates a place of decision. The prophesied apostasy is upon us and we are going to have to "see" and "choose" which path we are going to walk on. So many in the church today are running headlong onto the path of apostasy. The modern "Word of faith" movement, with all of its divergent paths will lead some astray, promising riches and a god-like status that is not Biblical. Others will be drawn down the path of the "seeker-sensitive" church, which does all it can, even to the estrangement of God's Word, to make people comfortable. One very dangerous path of the modern church are the so called Church growth methods, such as G-12 and Cell group programs, which seek to totally control its members and introduce believers to a non-biblical route of discipleship. Their path is not one of Grace, but rather, is one of law.

The path that the believer needs to be on, is an old path. It was originated by God after the Fall and has been steadily revealed to mankind ever since. This is the path of the Cross. It is by faith in what Christ finished for us at Calvary that a person enters into relationship with God. As well, it is this same simple Faith in Christ's finished Work at Calvary that supplies the believer with the supernatural help and Grace needed to live out our daily lives. Faith in God's redemption plan is the "old path". God revealed this Holy path to men like Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, and to many, many others. When Jesus stated that He was the only "Way" [road or path] that would lead men to the Father, He spoke of who He was and what He would do for all mankind at Calvary.

If you are trusting in your own efforts or law keeping to get you to heaven, you are on the wrong path. If your hope lies in your confession of a certain scripture or a particular church growth method, you are on the wrong path. If your eyes are ever on Jesus Christ, who He is, and What He did at the Cross, then you are on the old path. This path will lead you into a walk with God that is profitable for you; spirit, soul, and body. Righteousness will be your garment and faithfulness will bring you a crown. Every other path will lead you to weeping and gnashing of teeth. Those who reject God's path, the path of faith in Christ and Him Crucified, will find themselves facing the wrath and judgment of God. What path are you on?

Keep The Main Thing; The Main Thing!

The message of the Bible is the message of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. All of the Old Testament types and shadows point to Christ and Him Crucified. The New Testament brings the reality of what the O.T. foresaw.

It seems however, that much of the modern church little recognizes this all important truth. Today's seeker-sensitive pulpiteer looks much more like an Amway salesman or motivational guru than any of the prophets of old. I am so sick and tired of hearing preachers that are supposed to be representing God, pressuring and conning people with cheap gimmicks to get money. I am disgusted at the so-called new breed of prophets that never mention sin or the Cross.

I am upset with preachers who ignore the poor and the needy, but buy themselves another jet airplane. I am upset with those preachers who prey on the lonely old people who trust them. Shame on this modern crowd of preachers.....

On any given Sunday, you can hear an excellent little talk on "how to improve thyself" but precious little Gospel truth about the real need of mankind, which simply stated is that our sins have separated us from our God and the only remedy is for each of us to be washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

BOOK TITLE: Golden Nuggets of Truth from my Blog

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor.1: 17-18 " For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the Cross is to them who perish foolishness: but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

We, as preachers, are not called to give cute little self-help talks and teach people how to pamper "self". Jesus said that self was to be crucified. Look at Galatians 5:24- " And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." The word affections can also be translated " passions".

As ministers of God, we are called to declare the fact that men are sinners and God loves them and has provided a way for all to be saved, at least all who come God's way. And that way is Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. To preach anything else is to violate the sacred trust of the call.

So, preacher friend of mine, let us join together in calling our fellow laborers back to the Cross of Christ. Let us plead with men and women, boys and girls, to repent of their sins and run into the open arms of the savior today!

The finished work of Jesus Christ upon the Cross is our only hope!