

# God Honors Godly Repentance I

Fred R. Coulter—March 7, 2015

As we're coming close to the Passover, *God always honors Godly repentance*. That's what's important for us to understand here. Let's see what this Godly repentance involves.

First of all, let's see what the world is today. Let's come to Isa. 5. We see this happening. I don't know how many heard it on the news, but I was driving around the other day and I tuned in to Rush Limbaugh to see what he was saying, with all the political events going on.

Sidebar: Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, laid it right on the line: *the threat of Iran*. They live within destruction range of their weapons right now. Speculation: It makes you wonder why the administration is not saying anything about the Iranians fighting side-by-side with the Iraqis to capture the city of Tikrit; they are called Shiite militants.

Do you suppose that the attempt to hide this agreement that they are working on with Iran now, that there may be an unspoken quid-pro-quo that 'we'll give you a sweetheart deal if you will send your troops in to help turn ISIS back.' Why would they be in there fighting? How is it that the administration could not know? *They would know!* There is a top Iranian general leading the assault.

So, what we're dealing with is the shell game of lies and deception on the political scene. This comes down into the things, like it says in Matt. 24:10 that 'many will be led into sin.'

On this report from Thailand that Rush Limbaugh read was this: Three men are marrying, so you have three men, homosexuals, marrying.

Now stop and *think*, and all of you Protestants out there stop and *think*. You say the commandments are a curse. *No!* The commandments are the commandments of love from a God of love. Look at what men will do when they have no restraint and why God gave the law.

Look at what is happening to the world. Look how quickly the United States is being *fundamentally transformed*. The biggest missing ingredient is real repentance.

Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil... [that's exactly what it is today] ...who put darkness for light... [that is Satan's occult way for the light and Truth of God] ...and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!.... [that's where we are today] ...Woe unto *them that*

*are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink... [Direct reference to all of the drugs that we have today and alcoholism and everything that goes with that.] ...Who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!" (vs 20-23).

We can expect *sudden correction* to come. ***However, God always honors repentance!***

Verse 24: "Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble... [Have you ever seen that? POOF! Vaporized!] ...and the flame burns up the chaff; their root shall be like rottenness, and their blossoms shall go up like dust because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore, the anger of the LORD is kindled against His people... [that's why all of these troubles; there is no repentance] ...and He has stretched out His hand against them, and has stricken them; and the hills trembled, and their dead bodies *were* as filth in the midst of the streets. In all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand *is* stretched out still" (vs 24-25). Quite an amazing indictment!

Here's what God says; God wants them to repent, Amos 5:14: "Seek good and not evil..." But look at all of the sports, look at all the movies, look at all the television, look at all the digital games, look at the activities, look at the education, look at the practice of people. They are seeking evil; they are also seeking *evil spirits*. They now have on the Travel Channel seeking demons, going into caves, into haunted houses.

If you "Seek good and not evil that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as you have spoken.... [here is what we are to do]: ...Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious **to the remnant of Joseph**" (vs 14-15).

Who are they? *Britain and America*. Britain is close to being taken over by Muslims and so are some of the countries in the Netherlands and Belgium and Holland.

Sidebar: Just reminded by my lovely wife that in the speech by Netanyahu, he referred to the Jews in America as family. Does that tell us he knows a little something from the Bible that he can't dare say politically? *Could be!* Otherwise, why say that.

Here is how repentance has to be, Isaiah 55:5: "Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not

know; a nation *that* did not know you shall run to you because of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you.” That’s the end result of what’s going to happen.

Here is how to repent: This is done in private on your knees, in prayer to God. Then in searching the Word of God, what does it say?

Sidebar: I just got an e-mail from a died-in-the-wool Protestant who says, ‘You’re leading people astray by telling them that they need to keep the commandments of God. Jesus said it was finished when He died.’ His *ministry* ended; ***the work of God is a process of perfection.***

Verse 6: “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” Remember what He told Jeremiah because of the evil that got so bad, ‘*Do not even pray for this people, nor lift up voice to Me, because I will not hear.*’

Here’s what has to be done, v 7: “Let the wicked forsake his way...” That’s why you need to study the Bible and know and understand the Bible. For all the died-in-the-wool Protestants, please read 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John, the apostle of love, the apostle whom Jesus loved. What did he write? ‘*Anyone who says he knows Him and does not keep His commandments is a liar.*’ So, live on in your delusion. Your captors will make you pay the penalty.

Verse 7: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts...”

- not the outward appearance of being nice
- not the religious façade of being righteous

Your thoughts, that’s what God judges us on. Our actions count, but

- ***if*** our thoughts are right
- ***if*** our thoughts are from God
- ***if*** our thoughts are converted with the Word and Spirit of God

how will our actions be? *They won’t be totally free from sin, because we’re still in the flesh, but **your actions will reflect your conversion!***

“...and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (v 7).

Why do you need to repent? *Most people, when they approach God, they do it like Cain; ‘God, here I am,’ ignoring all of His commandments. What did God tell Cain because He didn’t accept his sacrifice? He said, ‘Why are you angry? What are you all mad about? If you do well, will you not be accepted? But if not, sin lies at the door. But you must rule over it.’ That’s what we have to do with the Spirit of God and the commandments of God,*

***rule over the carnal nature*** that we still have as human beings. Although, ***being converted, we’ve had the circumcision of the heart!***

Verse 8: “‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (vs 8-9). Isn’t that interesting how that ties right in exactly with what Cain thought?

Let’s see the first thing that Jesus said when He came into Galilee to preach the Gospel; tie it in with Isa. 55.

Mark 1:14: “Now, after the imprisonment of John, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time has been fulfilled...’” (vs 14-15). Think about the time and distance from when He said this and today.

“...and the Kingdom of God is near at hand...” (v 15). That was literally true because Jesus was the King of the Kingdom of God. He said, ‘You all come and join Me.’ ***NO!***

*He said: “...**repent, and believe in the Gospel!**”* (v 15). Part of the Gospel was written by the Apostle John: the whole Gospel of John and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John. “...and believe the Gospel.” We have the Gospel. The Gospel is also in the Old Testament, as well.

What happened when the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost? What did Peter say to all of those who wanted to know what to do? They had a part or within the crowd that yelled to Pilate ‘crucify Him, crucify Him.’ They said, ‘What should we do?’ Peter said, ‘*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!*’ Three thousand repented. There were probably 50,000 at the temple, where were the other 47,000? Where were the priests and the scribes and those who killed Him?

After we have repented to God and are baptized and our repentance is to God. We have two major areas of repentance:

1. ***to God***, through Jesus Christ Who paid the penalty for our sins
2. ***to each other***, for those in the Church

We will see that it is God Who leads us to repentance. That’s why, when we get in trouble, and our lives are miserable, everything upside down and backwards, and we wonder what is wrong, then God does something to us, and says to the effect, ‘You need to repent.’ We find in Rom. 2 just how that works.

Here's something that happens all the time; people always judge other people and they condemn sin, but they keep sin in their mind. This is what Paul is bringing out here. You can't have that hypocrisy going on.

- you have to come to God on *His* terms
- you have to come to God *His* way
- you have to repent to God *His* way
- He will help you

Romans 2:1: "Therefore, you are without excuse, O man... [anybody, man or woman] ...everyone who judges *another*; for in that in which you judge the other, you are condemning your own self; for you who judge *another* are doing the same things." That is breaking the commandments of God.

Someone will stand up and say, 'Everyone who commits murder should suffer the death penalty.' Then *they* run out and commit adultery. What did James say about breaking the commandments? *You break one, you break them all*—do the same thing.

Verse 2: "But we know that the judgment of God is according to Truth upon those who commit such things." Everything listed in the Rom. 1. There are God-haters out there, more and more of them.

Verse 3: "Now, do you think yourself, O man... [we all think to ourselves and talk to ourselves all the time] ...whoever is judging those who commit such things, and you are practicing them *yourself*, that you shall escape the judgment of God?... [of course not] ...Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the graciousness of God leads you to repentance?" (vs 3-4). Being led to repentance is where we need to be. And having our sins forgiven is where we need to be.

Let's notice what has to happen. First of all when you start repenting, you begin adjusting your life according to the commandments of God. You must do that, otherwise the leading to repentance will stop.

Verse 8: "On the other hand, to those who are contentious and who disobey the Truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish—upon every soul of man who works out evil, both of *the Jew* first, and of *the Greek*; but glory and honor and peace to everyone who works good... [Where did we start? *Love the good; seek the good!*] ...both to *the Jew* first and to *the Greek*, Because there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law... [not having the knowledge of the law] ...shall also perish without law..." (vs 8-12).

Why do they perish? *Because the wages of sin is death!* Even though they don't have the knowledge of the Law, the Law is spiritual and works all the time.

"...and as many as have sinned within *the Law* shall be judged by *the Law*... [that comes even a greater judgment] ...because **the hearers of the law are not just before God**, but **the doers of the law shall be justified**" (vs 12-13).

What does this tell us? *In the repentance that God is leading you in, you will begin keeping the commandments of God!* You have not yet had your sins forgiven through baptism, but you're in the process of repenting of them as God is leading you and drawing you. "...**shall be** justified." That's important to understand.

Let's see how that is accomplished. As we come toward the Passover time, this becomes far, far more important for us to realize.

I read something by a skeptic who said, 'How could God be a God of love if He sentences homosexuals to death?' Look at the society, because they are not put to death. One clue: all of the execution of the penalties in the Old Testament were to be done in conjunction with the priest and with the judge. All of those judgments of death, etc., the Church was not granted. That is called the *administration of death*.

The Church *cannot* administer death. So that tells you why we should not have Muslim Sharia law, because now you've got another set of sovereign laws. He gave that to all the nations to administer themselves. Why? *The Church is a spiritual organization, not a government, not a political entity!*

Therefore, the Church does not take upon itself to execute the penalty for those sins. The whole society is in God's hands and God is judging the whole society and calling those who will come to repentance. That's where the Church fits in preaching the Gospel. That is the way that people learn of God so they can come to repentance. Look at the world.

Romans 3:9: "What then? Are **we** of ourselves better?..." Jews? *No!* Nobody's better than anybody else when it comes to repentance and forgiveness of sin.

"...Not at all! For we have already charged both Jews and Gentiles—*ALL—with* being under sin, exactly as it is written: 'For there is not a righteous one—not even one! There is not one who understands; there is not one who seeks after God'" (vs 9-11).

I don't see it in Washington. I don't see it in Sacramento. I don't see it anywhere. Hopefully, we see it within the Churches of God.

Sidebar: Back to you can't have two sovereigns within one geographical area. The Muslims have set up Sharia courts, and one city in Texas, of all places. 'Oh, we just want to judge between those seeking divorce.' Remember, when the camel gets its nose into the tent, the rest of it is coming very shortly. Here's the world; this is world news, right here. "There is not so much as even one."

Verse 13: "Their throats *are* like an open grave... [Sound like some politicians? religionists?] ...with their tongues they have used deceit... [No, they're all honest people—aren't they?] ...*the* venom of asps *is* under their lips."

- How has the President and his aides treated Netanyahu?
- How have they treated those who profess Christianity in the Middle East? *You give your head to Allah!*

Verse 15: "Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery *are* in their ways; and *the* way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes" (vs 15-18).

The important thing to understand and the world doesn't understand it; the Protestants do not understand it, v 19: "Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law... [who are subject to its jurisdiction, which means everyone] ...so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." The Greek there is *under judgment* to God.

What does it say in 1-Peter 4 concerning the Church? *'Now is judgment upon the house of God. If the righteous scarcely be saved, what shall happen to the sinner and ungodly?'*

(go to the next track)

Verse 19: "Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law..." Every human being is under the Law.

Romans 7:1: "Are you ignorant, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know law), that the Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?" *Subject to it his whole life!*

*Rule over* is really strong here, because this is 'kurieuei,' comes from 'kurieuo,' which means *to lord it over*. In other words, no escape from the Law functioning in your life. No escape! "...rules over a man for as long a time as he may live"—*no one can escape that!*

Romans 3:19: "Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law..." That is to everyone who is subject to the law, so that means everyone. What did he just cover in the verses leading up to it? All the evils that people do.

"...so that every mouth may be stopped..." (v 19). No one's going to say, 'God, You never told me.' God will say, 'I've given all human beings independent free moral agency, and I do not interfere with that. The things that you have done in your life you may have been led into it by others, but you chose to stay there.' Everything we do is a choice, whether willful or neglect, it's a choice.

"...and **all** the world may become guilty before God.... [*under judgment to God!*] ...Therefore, by works of law..." (vs 19-20)—anything we can do—offering a sacrifice, paying money, buying indulgence—does not take away your sin before God. 'By works of law.' Or as the Jews have, all the laws that they have. Or as the Catholics, all the laws that they have. Or as the Protestants, all the laws they don't have.

"...there shall no flesh be justified before Him..." (v 20). To be justified means *to be put in right standing with God*. The **only thing** that can do that is ***the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ!***

Take the life and death and sacrifice, crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His shed blood—Who was God manifested in the flesh—is there anything you can do or I can do, or anyone can do, that is greater than what God has done to provide the forgiveness of our sins through His shed blood? *Of course not!*

That's where the Protestants fall short. They think that if we keep the commandments of God, we're trying to earn our salvation. *That's nonsense!* We keep the commandments of God because we don't want to live in sin. We have to repent every day anyway, because conversion happens in the mind.

Let's see what happens. Paul rehearsing what happened to the man who was put out of the Church for committing incest with his stepmother.

2-Corinthians 7:3: "I do not say *this* to condemn you because I have said before that you are in our hearts—to die together and to live together. Great *is* my boldness toward you, *and* great *is* my boasting in regard to you. I have been filled with encouragement... [because of their Godly repentance] ...I am overflowing with joy at all our tribulations" (vs 3-4).

I can tell you one thing, Paul had to be mightily converted to say that. 'I am overflowing

with joy at all our tribulations.’ That’s hardly any of us!

Verse 5: “For indeed, after we came into Macedonia, our flesh did not have any rest, but we were oppressed in every way—without *were* contentions, and within *were* fears. But God, Who encourages those who are heavy-hearted, encouraged us by the coming of Titus... [God is involved in all of this] ...and not only by his coming to us, but also by the encouragement with which he was comforted concerning you, relating to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; therefore, I rejoiced all the more” (vs 5-7).

He wrote a letter and he told them, ‘When you get together and my spirit is with you, you turn this person over to Satan the devil and you have nothing to do with him.’

Remember that ***with Godly repentance God will always honor it!***

Verse 8: “For if I caused you to sorrow by the epistle... [1-Cor.] ...I do not repent, even if I did regret it *at first*... [he was probably thinking it was pretty strong, but it had to be done] ...because I see that that epistle caused you to sorrow for only a short time. And so I rejoice—not because you were caused to sorrow, but because you sorrowed unto repentance... [this is the kind of repentance that God leads us to] ...for you sorrowed in a Godly manner...” (vs 8-9).

- repenting
- being sorry
- shedding tears

But what perfects that kind of repentance to make it Godly? *That you cease sinning!* That is Godly repentance.

It’s not like the joke of the Jew on the Day of Atonement. Taking a shower, puts his head back with his mouth open—OOPS! ‘Oh, God forgive me, I drank some water.’ Not that kind of repentance. Not ‘I’m sorry,’ so you escape. It’s like the criminal who was caught. ‘Don’t shoot!’ *That is worldly sorrow!*

“...for you sorrowed in a Godly manner, so that you were not injured by us in any way. For sorrow unto repentance before God works out salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world works out death” (vs 9-10). Because that is not covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Verse 11: “For see how this very thing—your personal sorrow before God—brought about such earnestness in you!...”

What did we read in Isa. 55? ‘Forsake your thoughts, forsake your ways, for My thoughts are

not your thoughts,’ says the Lord.” This is what happens. When there is Godly repentance *we see things God’s way* and we understand it.

“...but the sorrow of the world works out death. For see how this very thing—your personal sorrow before God—brought about such earnestness in you! And, *what* a defense, and *what* indignation, and fear, and vehement desire, and zeal, and vengeance! In every way you have proved yourselves to be pure in the matter” (vs 10-11).

What did Amos say? ‘*Love the good, hate the evil.*’ That’s what they did. With this kind of repentance, then here is what God does (Rom. 3). This can be repentance leading up to baptism or as Jesus instructs us to repent every day. When you repent unto baptism and receive the Holy Spirit, now you have the strength of the Holy Spirit within you to overcome sin. God doesn’t go ‘whoopsy-do’ and take it away.

What would happen if God took away the law of sin and death completely from you? *You’d be perfected in the flesh!* But you can’t be perfected in the flesh, because perfection comes at the resurrection. This puts you on the road toward that place.

Romans 3:20: “Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him; for through *the Law is the knowledge of sin*... [that tells us what sin is] ...But, the righteousness of God...” (vs 20-21). *Through the righteous act of sending Jesus Christ:*

- of His perfect life
- of His perfect death
- of His resurrection

All of that’s included here.

“...*that is separate from law*...” (v 21)—or in addition to law. Law cannot forgive you; *God can!*

Try that the next time you get a traffic ticket and you ignore it and your fine is doubled, and you still ignore it. Finally they issue an arrest for you and you still ignore it. You’re driving along and you’re speeding again and a highway patrolman pulls you over. He looks on his little screen—aha!—got you!

He comes up to the window and you say, ‘Officer, I really didn’t mean to. I’ve been a really good boy, except this one thing.’ He says, ‘I have a warrant for your arrest, because you failed to appear.’ Same way with God. *He has a warrant for our arrest because of our sins*, but He will blot that out if we repent, under law. This has to be separate from law.

Let’s use another example: What if God said, ‘In order to receive eternal life, you have to keep the

Sabbath a minimum of 1,000 times.’ You say, ‘All right, Lord.’ So, you start keeping the Sabbath. You get 100 and you say you’re on your way; 200, you’re making progress; 300, you’re a third of the way there; 500, you’re over half way there; 700, you’re getting closer. You come to Sabbath 999 and you don’t keep it. You come before God and you say, ‘God, you gave me this work of law, 1,000 Sabbath-keeping to receive eternal life. I fell just one short.’

- there’s no mercy in the law
- there’s no forgiveness in the law
- the law is powerless

‘But God, I’m this close.’ *Sorry!* That’s why it has to be through the sacrifice of Christ, not through *what work you can generate yourself* to do it. First you must repent to God and be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God. That cannot happen without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which He gave freely and willingly, of which He asked repentance. Not your money, not keeping works of law, not 10,000 sacrifices of bulls or goats, but **a humble, repentant heart and attitude of repentance to God!**

Verse 21: “But now, *the* righteousness of God... [His justification for forgiveness of sin] ...*that is* separate from law has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.” If you read that in the *King James Version*, you’ll go nuts.

Verse 22: “Even *the* righteousness of God *that is* through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...” You believe in Jesus Christ and God gives you the faith that comes from Christ, that you believe in that sacrifice.

“...toward all and upon all those who believe...” (v 22). In this case, in believing there must be repentance. To believe without repentance is worthless.

“...for there is no difference. For all have sinned...” (vs 22-23). *Everyone has sinned!* You can’t say, ‘Look, all of these Nazis during World War II in killing all of these Jews were the worst, hateful murderers of all.’ In degree, as men look at it, that’s true. You say, ‘God, I wasn’t like them. I was a good boy. I kept Sunday 50 years of my life and died.’ He will say, ‘You sinned longer than they did in killing the Jews.’ *What do you mean?*

***If you break one commandment, you break them all!*** That’s why we need repentance and we need forgiveness every day. So you can’t say, ‘You must give me eternal life because I kept Sunday and I was a good boy. And You must throw that dirty German (or Hungarian, or whatever it was) who was working at the death camp and You must not give them eternal life because they did worse than me.’ He will say, ***‘The sacrifice of My Son, Jesus Christ, upon repentance covers all sin.’*** Think of that.

All have sinned! How did they sin? Read the verses ahead that we read. Terrible sins. However, upon repentance, here’s what happens, v 24: “*But* are being justified freely...”

- God’s mercy
- God’s blessing
- God’s forgiveness

—by *His grace*, which is the first step of grace.

“...through the redemption that *is* in Christ Jesus” (v 24). He died for the sins of the whole world. How could that be? That is a work that no other human being could do. It is done because:

1. He’s Creator of man and woman
2. He’s the One Who gave us human nature because of the sin of Adam and Eve
3. He came in the flesh, bearing in His own fleshly body ‘the law of sin and death’ and never sinned

Romans 8:3: “For what *was* impossible for the law to do... [the law couldn’t make you do anything, you have to choose to keep it] ...in that it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in *the* likeness...”—the full likeness of *sinful flesh*.

How important was the life and ministry of Christ before His crucifixion? He lived His whole life with ‘the law of sin and death’ in Him, ***but He never sinned once to activate it.*** He willingly took it upon Himself, because He gave it to all human beings and He alone can bring the price to pay for the sin of all human beings.

“...likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin... [that’s what He was, a sacrifice for sin] ...condemned sin in the flesh” (v 3). Whose flesh? *Christ’s!* That’s why He had to come in the way that He came.

Think what He gave up. Jesus said, ‘If any come to Me, let him forsake everything he has to love Me more than father, mother, brother, sister and yes, to even hate your own sinful life. If you don’t, you cannot be My disciple.’ That’s how important the sacrifice of Christ is.

That’s why it’s not just stand up in church and say a little prayer, ‘I believe Jesus died for my sins. I repent of my sins.’ *Hallelujah, you’re saved. The work of God is finished.*

As I’ve said before, it’s like those going out to race and they’re all lined up to race. Get on your mark, get set, go! BANG! The gun goes off and up comes a wall right in front of you. You hit and you say, ‘What happened?’ They are supposed to run the race. *Oh, it’s over, Jesus did it all.*

*No!* He paid the price for your sins so you can develop the character of God and become like Him. That's a whole different story.

Romans 3:24: “*But* are being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; Whom God has openly manifested...” (vs 24-25). That's why Christ died 2,000 years ago instead of 5,000 years ago. History has been continuous from the 2,000 year point where that can be verified.

“...openly manifested *to be* a propitiation... [which means a continual source of forgiveness and atonement upon repentance] ...through faith in His blood...” (v 25):

- not in your works
- not in your money
- not through the works of anyone else
- *through the work of Jesus Christ*

“...in order to demonstrate **His righteousness...**” (v 25).

- His goodness
- His mercy
- His forgiveness
- His justification

“...in respect to the remission of sins that are past” (v 25).

How does that fit in with ‘if you accept Jesus, it's finished’? *There is no such thing as forgiveness of future sin!* That's what the Catholics sell. They sell indulgences, which means you get a certificate.

You make a pilgrimage trip to Rome and you go through that pagan basilica with all of the idolatry around and all of the demons and things that are there. You get a certificate that says you have indulgences and pre-forgiveness of sin.

What would your attitude be then? ‘Since I have this, whoopee. I'm going to Las Vegas and I'll even broadcast it. *There's no such thing as a future sin!* Why? There are sins that will be in the future, but why is there **no remission of future sin?** *Because you haven't sinned, yet.* How can you forgive something that hasn't been done? **That's why it's only past sin!** You go along and all of a sudden—OOP! There I sinned. In a moment in time, it's already past, because you did it. I hope you understand that.

The Jews have it this way on Day of Atonement: ‘Forgive me for all of the bad transactions I do in the coming year.’ Same thing! This is why there needs to be repentance *daily*.

- Do evil thoughts come in your mind that are temptations you need to repent of? *Of course!*
- Do you lose your temper or something like that? *Yes, of course!*

Someone could look at you when you've lost your temper and say, ‘I don't know how that person can be converted.’ Maybe he's very sorry about it and goes and repents. Who knows.

Continual mercy and atoning through faith in His blood “...in order to demonstrate His righteousness... [goodness, mercy, forgiveness] ...in respect to the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; *yes*, to publicly declare His righteousness in the present time, that He might be just...” (vs 25-26). Wherever it says righteousness, that word is nearly the same as *justified* or *justification*.

“...that He might be just, and the One Who justifies the one who *is* of *the* faith of Jesus” (v 26). You believe that Jesus did this for you and you accept it.

Verse 27: “Therefore, where *is* boasting? It is excluded. Through what law? *The law* of works? By no means! Rather, *it is* through a law of faith.” That law of faith is believing what God said; that:

- Jesus did come
- He did live a perfect life
- He did die
- it is verifiable
- it is historically true and accurate
- the Word of God is true and accurate
- that you are a sinner
- you have nothing you didn't receive

When you look into the very depths of your heart and your mind and your being, what are we? *Sinful and wretched and needing the mercy of God to clean us up!*

That's why for the Feast of Unleavened Bread I've got a sermon that we'll cover, which is *the washing of the water by the Word*. That's why we pray; that's why we study.

Luke 11 is parallel with Matt. 6. Catholics have memorized this, if they sin and go confess to a priest. Can a priest forgive your sins? *No! God the Father does through Jesus Christ!*

Luke 11:1: “...‘Lord, teach us how to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ And He said to them, ‘When you pray...’” (vs 1-2). If you don't have the sermons that we did, *The Keys to Answered Prayer*, let us know; we have transcript books.

“...‘Our Father Who *is* in heaven...’” (v 2). What did Jesus say about how Holy the name of the Father is? ‘*You are to call no man on earth your father,*’ that is in the sense of what we would call ‘religion.’ Why are the priests in the Catholic Church called ‘fathers’? and the pope is called ‘holy father’? They're not! *and* They're not in heaven either!

“...hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come... [that’s what we look to, not on this earth] ...Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also upon the earth” (v 2)—in your life.

What was Jesus’ last battle before He was arrested? *‘If possible, take this cup away, but not My will, Your will.’* That’s what it has to be with us.

Verse 3: “Give us our bread *as* needed day by day; and forgive us our sins...” (vs 3-4). How can anyone say that if you do the Protestant real simple thing of accepting Jesus that the work is finished and you don’t have to worry about anything, you cannot sin. Why then did Jesus say ‘forgive us our sins’?

How often? *Whenever you sin!* In other words, daily. What will happen if you have the Spirit of God? I’ll tell you this ahead of time: *the Spirit of God in you will be exposing these things in your mind and you will begin wondering, ‘What on earth is happening?’ That’s God cleansing it! He’s bringing it to your remembrance so you can repent of it!*

Then, with *the washing of the water by the Word*, that cleanses your mind and

- as you put in the Word of God
- as you put in the thoughts of God
- as you live your life God’s way

***then you are being purified through the Spirit of God!*** It’s not finished until the resurrection.

Let’s see what Paul said. Think of all that Paul did. You would have to say that Paul, even he himself said, he did more than the other apostles, because he worked harder. That’s true. He supervised the writing of the Gospel of Luke, so that means that in addition to his 14 epistles that he wrote, that he was responsible for the book of Acts and also the Gospel of Luke. He wrote 60% of the New Testament.

You would think, according to human standards, he would be the most righteous person in the world. If you want to know how much God loved him, read 2-Cor. 11 about all the difficulties he went through. Mark that down and study it later.

2-Corinthians 4:8: “On every *side we are* hard pressed, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed... [he really had a yo-yo life] ...always carrying about in *our* bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For those of us who are living are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake...” (vs 8-11). How is that? *Because of repenting of sin!*

“...that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then, on the one hand, death is working in us; and on the other hand, life *is working* in you” (vs 11-12). He is saying that his whole ministry was a sacrificial offering to serve them.

Verse 13: “And having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, ‘I believed, therefore I have spoken,’ we also believe; therefore we also speak, Knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you” (vs 13-14). The Corinthians had a problem; they figured they were already perfected. They were saying that they were better than Paul. Yet, *not so!*

Verse 15: “For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the abounding grace may cause the thanksgiving of many to overflow unto the glory of God. For this reason, we do not lose heart...” (vs 15-16). That’s why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread, so that will be able to go through whatever comes, because *God is with us!*

“...but if our outward man is being brought to decay...” (vs 16). It is, just look in the mirror, a little older every day, every week, every month, every year.

“...yet, the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.” How? *By repenting of sins!* ‘Forgive us our sins as we forgive others.’

Verse 17: “For the momentary **lightness** of our tribulation... [what he went through] ...is working out for us an immeasurably greater *and* everlasting fullness of glory.” Notice the difference:

- the outward man *is dying* daily
- the inward man is *being renewed* day-by-day

***That is the process of conversion!***

Translate this into the Feast of Unleavened Bread. All human beings need renewing. That’s even evident in our body, even though we’re aging. Our body is renewed an average of seven complete renovations of your entire body in 70 years. Some say every seven years, so that’s ten times.

You cut yourself, your finger renews. To give you a little reminder to be careful, you’ve got a little scar there. Same way.

Verse 18: “While we consider not the things *that are* seen...” That’s where we all fall short. We look at the circumstances the wrong way.

“...but the things *that are* not seen. For the things *that are* seen are temporary; but the things *that are* not seen *are* eternal” (v 18). That goes right back to where Jesus started—‘repent and believe the



Gospel for the Kingdom of God is at hand.' For us we're getting really close to it.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 5:20-25
- 2) Amos 5:14-15
- 3) Isaiah 55:5-9
- 4) Mark 1:14-15
- 5) Romans 2:1-4, 8-13
- 6) Romans 3:9-11, 13, 15-19
- 7) Romans 7:1
- 8) Romans 3:19-20
- 9) 2-Corinthians 7:3-11
- 10) Romans 3:20-24
- 11) Romans 8:3
- 12) Romans 3:24-27
- 13) Luke 11:1-4
- 14) 2-Corinthians 4:8-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 24:10
- 1-2-3 John
- Romans 1
- 1-Peter 4
- Matthew 6
- 2-Corinthians 11

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

*The Keys to Answered Prayer*

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