

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Acts 16:30

Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25

Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; James 2:14-26

Confess CHRIST

Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 7:21

Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8

Be Baptized

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1st Peter 3:21

Be Steadfast

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

“Let The Word Of Christ Dwell In You”

Colossians 3:16

Continuing the theme of appropriate speech, the new memory assignment is:

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...” (James 1:19).

Commit this passage to memory by hearing it, saying it, reading, writing it, and putting it into practice.

“Sound Doctrine”

Titus 2:1

CAN GOD REALLY FORGIVE ME?

Allen Webster, adapted

“God could never forgive me. I’ve done some awful things.”

How many times has that thought passed through the synapses of human brains? Does it frequently lodge in your “gray matter”? When you are alone at night with just your thoughts, are they thoughts of despair, hopelessness, and frustration?

The private thoughts of the prodigal boy in a pigpen in the far country give us some hope (Luke 15:11-32). That boy was an invention of the Master storyteller to share a message about forgiveness... about a Father’s all-encompassing, incomprehensible love... heaven’s sermon of hope when the devil preaches despair.

That hungry prodigal knew his rich father would not go to bed without supper that night, **but the son would.** Pondering this thought, he realized that nobody on his father’s farm would fall asleep with a growling stomach, **but he would.** Even his father’s servants has *“bread enough and to spare”* (Luke 15:17), **but he didn’t.**

Since the father in the parable represents the Father in the Bible, we can draw some interesting conclusions from the phrase *“bread enough and to spare”*. God has never been stingy with His blessings. He *“giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not”* (James 1:5; cf. 1:17).

Take bread, for instance. When Israel needed some in the wilderness, they had all the manna they wanted: *“Gather of*

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January 27th, 2008

“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

Monday

7:00 pm.....Acts Study

On hiatus.

Tuesday

7:00 pm.....Ladies’ Study

Cory Barajas residence

Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Various Studies

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

“Give Attention To Reading”

1st Timothy 4:13

Your reading assignments for this week are as follows:

Sunday.....Exodus 29-31

Monday.....Exodus 32-34

Tuesday.....Exodus 35-37

Wednesday.....Exodus 38-40

Thursday.....Leviticus 1-3

Friday.....Leviticus 4-6

Saturday.....Leviticus 7-9

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it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man" (Exodus 16:16). When a widow shared with Elijah what she thought was her last meal, God refilled her meal barrel, and no matter how much she dipped out, it stayed full until the famine ended (1st Kings 17:15-16). When Jesus fed five thousand men, besides women and children, the famished people ate all they wanted and still had twelve baskets left (Matthew 14:20). When He opened His buffet to four thousand another day, they, too, ate their fill and had seven baskets extra (Matthew 15:37).

When we think of man and see the magnitude of his sin, we can hardly understand how a single sinner can be saved; but when we think of God and see the magnitude of His love, we can hardly understand how a single one could be lost.

Have you considered that God loved sinners better than He loved His own Son? How can you say that, you ask? He *"spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all"* (Romans 8:32), but He spares sinners. He poured His wrath upon His Son and made Him, the Innocent, the substitute for sinners, that He might lavish love upon us, the guilty who deserve His anger.

Since God freely gives us all things (Romans 8:32) and withholds *"no good thing... from them that walk uprightly"* (Psalm 84:11), what can we count on when we make the journey back to our Father from the far country?

With God, there is grace enough and to spare. No one has gotten up from God's table still needing a snack of grace. Is your case a difficult one? Are your spiritual diseases strange and complex?

Consider that He who made the earth and stretched out the heavens like a tent has no bound to His strength nor limit to His might. In six thousand years, He has never failed at anything. Will His first failure be saving you? Will you prove too strong for omnipotence, too clever for omniscience, or too unlovable for omni-benevolence? If He made you (Genesis 1:27), He can **remake** you (2nd Corinthians 5:17). If He claims you (2nd Corinthians 6:18), He can cleanse you (Acts 22:16). His *"hand is not shortened that it cannot save you"* (Isaiah 59:1).

After all these years, is there still bread enough on God's table of grace?

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Isaiah issued this invitation twenty-seven centuries ago: *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon"* (Isaiah 55:7).

It still stands. God offers *"abundant grace"* (2nd Corinthians 4:15) and *"abundant mercy"* (1st Peter 1:3; cf. Titus 3:5-6), yea, *"exceeding abundant"* (1st Timothy 1:14). He is able *"to save them to the uttermost"* that come to Him (Hebrews 7:25). Peter said, *"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom"* (2nd Peter 1:11). Paul concluded: *"Where sin abounded, grace doth much more abound"* (Romans 5:20).

Let's put this plenteous grace to the test in a real world of really bad sinners. Did God live up to His promises?

Those on whose hands God saw crimson stains that matched His Son's blood type were told, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"* (Acts 2:38). Three thousand of them washed their hands *"in the fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins"* that very day (Acts 2:41; cf. Zechariah 13:1), and many others took Him up on His offer in coming weeks (Acts 2:47). It would be hard to imagine a case today that could be the equal of the Pentecostal sinners.

Can God forgive you? Yes! Will God forgive you? Yes. The question is, *"Do you really want to be forgiven?"* Are you willing to take God on His terms? What are His terms? Learning of Christ (John 6:44-45), faith in Christ (Acts 16:31), repentance of sins (Luke 13:3), confession of Christ (Romans 10:10), baptism into Christ (1st Peter 3:21), and then faithful living for Christ (Revelation 2:10).

Vegas Valley Church Of Christ

Romans 16:16

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