

Salvation and Rewards

Our modern society does everything it can to train us to be tolerant of sin. We are taught that Form, and not Substance, is what matters. To train us to be very tolerant of sin our religious culture tells us that “God is Love”, and that “God’s forgiveness is infinite”. We are told that “God is very merciful”, and that “there is no sin too bad that God cannot forgive”. We are told that all a person has to do is to “accept Christ as their Savior”, and they will be saved. We hear such concepts on TV, in movies, on talk shows, and especially in church.

Such “forgiveness concepts” are so pervasive in our modern religious culture, that to talk about “God’s forgiveness through Christ” in any other more limiting way, is looked upon as blasphemy.

The Consequence

But blindly accepting these “forgiveness concepts” is actually a major problem. Large numbers of Christians are told that all they have to do is “confess their sins” with their mouths to a priest, and whatever they did is automatically forgiven, and so they are placed back into a state of Grace once again. Their sins are absolved, as if they never did them. They are told that they can do this “Confession” as many times as they want.

This reasoning is why Catholic priests will engage in homosexual activities, and are not punished, because they went to Confession, and are now back in a state of Grace again. Their homosexual activities are absolved, as if they never did them, so, there is nothing that needs to be punished.

Still other large numbers of Christians are told that all they have to do is “ask Christ for forgiveness” with their mouths in a prayer, and then whatever they did is automatically forgiven, and they are placed back into a state of Righteousness. By doing this their sins are absolved, as if they never did them. They are told that they can do this Repentance as many times as they want. Thus, even the vilest people can be accepted in church as “Saved”, as they are “Forgiven and Righteous through Christ”.

The ultimate example of where accepting these “forgiveness concepts” has led, is the concept of the “Death Bed Confession”. In this teaching: no matter what you did in your life, no matter how evil you were as a person, all you have to do is, before you die, ask Christ for forgiveness with your mouth, say that you Repent, and then everything you ever did is automatically forgiven, and you are Saved, and have Eternal Life. Thus, we have Emperor Constantine, Stalin, Hitler, and other very evil people, automatically forgiven of all their sins, and receiving Eternal Life, solely because of their last minute “Death Bed Confession”.

The Problem

Even the casual reader will perceive an injustice with having Constantine, Stalin, Hitler, and other very evil people get Eternal Life along with Peter, James, Paul, and other very pious people. If this is really true, then there really is no good reason to be a pious person, nor is there any motive for keeping the Laws of God in any proportion.

But, God is not unjust. Evil people are not given Eternal Life along with the pious people. The “forgiveness concepts” taught by the religious culture are not true. Nowhere in the scriptures does it allow a “Death Bed Confession” concept. Nowhere in the scriptures are we told that the evil person will get Salvation just because they “mouth the right words”, or get a priest to absolve them of their sins.

It Sounds Like Blasphemy

In fact, it sounds like blasphemy to tell you that such “forgiveness concepts” are not taught in the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. This is because many people cannot comprehend a God that can refuse to forgive. To them it sounds like blasphemy to even suggest that God will refuse to forgive some people when they ask for it.

But consider this: is anyone obligated to grant a favor, when asked for under false pretenses? What if, in cosmic fact, a “Death Bed Confession” is seen right through by the Creator God, and is known by Him to be made under false pretenses? What if, in cosmic fact, a time-after-time-again Repentance prayer is seen right through by the Creator God, and is known by Him to be made under false motives? What if, in cosmic fact, the Creator God sees right through the words people say, and can see what they really are, that they still have evil character and vile personalities?

The words people say in Confessions and Repentance prayers do not change who they have become, and the Creator God can see right through people’s words. It takes time to change the bad character and evil personality traits you have learned. It is just a fact of life, that you have to take the time to think and do Good, before you can learn to be Good.

Consider Some Quick Examples

How do these popular religious culture “forgiveness concepts” teachings mesh with the fact that God will decide to throw some people into the Lake of Fire?

“If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire”, (Revelation 20:15).

These people have been resurrected (Revelation 20:12) and can see Christ right in front of them. They cannot deny Christ anymore. Yet, they will be thrown into the fire.

Also consider that the world's teaching that "God's forgiveness is infinite" does not agree with the fact that forgiveness is denied to the believer who continues to practice a lifestyle of sin, so much that they no longer have Christ's sacrifice applied to them anymore:

"For if we deliberately **keep on sinning** after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **no further sacrifice for sins is left for us**" (Hebrews 10:26, keep reading).

Obviously, there are limits to God's forgiveness. At some point, God's forgiveness will be denied even to those believing in Christ (read Matthew 7:21-23).

But, how can this be? Upon reading this far, many will recall scores of scriptures which affirm the gracious forgiveness of our sins through Christ. Yes, these scriptures are also true. But how can both "God will deny forgiveness to some believers" and "Gracious unearned forgiveness through Christ" be true at the same time?

There is a Deliberate Omission of Text

The religious culture's "forgiveness concepts" leave out numerous scriptures providing **additional criteria** for how God decides who receives or is denied Salvation. There is **Forgiveness**, and there is also **Election**.

Everyone understands that Salvation, and being given Eternal Life, are graciously given by God through Christ, as an unearned gift. You do not earn Salvation, you are given Salvation and Eternal Life as a gift.

But what is omitted by the world's "forgiveness concepts" is the **Sovereignty and Purpose** of God. There is the "**Judgment of God**" in this too. **God does not give out Salvation by just hearing some magical verbal formula, wherein whenever someone says "the right words" then God is forced and obligated to give them Eternal Life, no matter how detestable of a person they are.**

God is resurrecting people, not intensions. People have intelligence, self-will, character, and personality. It is only prudent to pick (**Election**) those people having the right training, self-control, character, and personality to live for all eternity.

Eternal Life is Not Given to the Evil Person

God will ensure that Justice is done, and will reward each of us for the good things that we have done, and also will punish us for the bad things we have done. Further, God is not blind, He sees right through what we are doing. If you are not doing things well, He makes a Judgement about you. It is not just "Talking the Talk", it is "Walking the Walk".

"By this the **children of God** and the **children of the devil** are revealed: Everyone who **does not practice righteousness** – the one who **does not love** his fellow Christian – **is not of God.**" (1 John 3:10, read 3-10).

“Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' **will enter into the kingdom of heaven** - only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. **On that day** [when they are resurrected Revelation 20:12], many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy **in your name**, and **in your name** cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?' Then I will declare to them, **I never knew you. Go away from me, you [the] lawbreakers!**' [literally 'without-law']", (Matthew 7:21-23).

At the resurrection Christ will look at people for what they are. Not for what they said, “Lord”, and not for what powers they could do, “powerful deeds”. Just because people “Talk the Talk” about being a Christian, does not mean that they are. The criteria for entering into the “Kingdom of Heaven” is directly tied to keeping the Law (Teachings), or not. God is making judgments about us, as we live our lives. Likewise with insincere repentance.

“But when he [John the Baptist] saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **Therefore produce fruit that proves your repentance.**’” (Matthew 3:7-8).

Read the above three scriptures again, this time try to superimpose the “Death Bed Confessor”, and judge for yourself if such a Repentance forces God to ignore who they really are, and every evil deed that they did. Asking with their mouth for forgiveness does not change their evil character or detestable personality. They are still the same evil personality that they were before. God is not tricked.

Receiving Salvation is the Start, Receiving Rewards is Next

Once you get Salvation by Grace, once you are given Eternal Life through Christ, you are also rewarded and punished for that which you have done. No one wants to think about being punished for their bad deeds, but we will. Most people want to think about receiving good things for the good deeds that they do. Each of us will receive both.

Following are some scriptures which make this point. Notice that not only does God and Christ make condemning Judgements about the evil deeds people do, but they also do not automatically forgive them, but will impose punishment on them.

“For **we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.** For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, **every knee will bow to me**, and every tongue will give praise to God.’ Therefore, **each of us will give an account** [speak out in our defense] **of himself to God.**” (Romans 14:10-12).

“Because you know that you **will receive your inheritance** from the Lord **as the reward**. Serve the Lord Christ. For the one **who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there are no exceptions!**” (Colossians 3:24-25).

“And each one **must be careful how he builds**. For no one can lay any **foundation** other than what is being laid, **which is Jesus Christ**. If anyone **builds on the foundation with** gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each builder’s work will be plainly seen**, for **the Day** will make it clear, because it will be **revealed by fire**. And the **fire will test what kind of work each has done**. If what someone has built survives, **he will receive a reward**. If someone’s work is burned up, **he will suffer loss**. He himself will be saved [getting or losing Salvation is not what is being talked about], but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that **God’s Spirit lives in you?** If someone destroys God’s temple, **God will destroy him**. For God’s temple is holy, which is what you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:10-17).

"For it is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey ... But the one who had received one talent went out and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money in it ... [To the good servants] His master answered, 'Well done, good and faithful slave! **You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things.** Enter into the joy of your master.' ... [To the bad servant] But his master answered, '**Evil and lazy slave!** ... Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten. For the one who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough. But the one who does not have, **even what he has will be taken from him.** And **throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**'" (Matthew 25:14-30).

“**Nothing is hidden that will not be revealed**, and nothing is secret that will not be made known. So then whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and **what you have whispered in private rooms will be proclaimed from the housetops**. “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more they can do. But I will warn you whom you should fear: **Fear the one who, after the killing, has authority to throw you into hell**. Yes, I tell you, **fear him!**” (Luke 12:2-5).

“Look! I am throwing her onto a bed of violent illness, and those who commit adultery with her **into terrible suffering**, unless they repent of her deeds. Furthermore, I will strike her followers with a deadly disease, and then all the

churches **will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts. I will repay each one of you what your deeds deserve.**" (Revelation 2:22-23).

"So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to **vomit you out of my mouth!**" (Revelation 3:16).

From these scriptures it is seen that God and Christ are watching us on a daily basis. Christ Himself makes condemning Judgements against believers, and even entire churches. Such scriptures demonstrate that our religious culture's "forgiveness concepts" are simply not true. **They are ignoring God's Sovereignty, God's Election, and God's Justice.**

There Are Semantic Confusions

Understanding that there is more to Salvation than just getting Eternal Life, and understanding that there is also Judgment and Rewards too, does not explain how the religious culture's "forgiveness concepts" sound so convincing.

The problem is **not that there are contradictions** in the Hebrew and Greek Text. The problem is that there are semantic confusions in the modern English Bibles. That is, the much older Hebrew and Greek Text words written, do not say what is read in the modern English Bibles.

This semantic confusion results because the meanings of some commonly used religious-words have changed over the years, and, because some religious-words have inherent double meanings. **Such factors combine to allow readers to make interpretations which are not present in the original Text.**

The most significant example of words changing meaning over time, is that the Greek word 'G863' ("to send away from"), is often translated as 'forgive'. But when the translators of 400 years ago created the King James English Bible, they translated this Greek word as 'forgive', having the "Old English" meaning. **But modern translators should no longer render 'G863' as 'forgive', because the Greek word does not mean 'forgive' as it is now being used in modern English.**

Today, 'to forgive' includes the concept of 'forgiving the thing' so that it no longer exists anymore, as if it never happened. Today, when people say '**your debt is forgiven**' they mean you no longer need to pay it, the debt is gone. Today, when people say '**through Christ your sins are forgiven**', they interpret this as saying that their sins are gone, as if they never happened.

But the Greek word 'G863' does not include the thought of being 'gone and no longer existing'. This shift in meaning is the reason why people do not understand how their sins can be '**forgiven through Christ**' and also still be '**punished at the Judgement Seat**'. But

400 years ago to be "forgiven" did not mean "forgiven and forgotten and never happened", (Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828).

Today, the Greek word 'G863' is better translated as "**not being pressed (right now)**" or "**released from being a problem (at this time)**".

For an example, read Matthew 8:23-35. The master 'forgave' the slaves debt, but later demanded full payment of the 'forgiven' debt. Here the Greek word 'G863' is improperly translated as 'forgive', as the master did not say that the debt was 'gone and no longer existing'. The debt was 'released', in that the payment of the debt was not going to be demanded at that time, like it was with the other slaves. But then the slave immediately went out to collect from others, showing that the master's debt was still owed, just not owed immediately. The debt was still existing, and later the master demanded immediate and full payment.

Today, the translation of 'G863' needs to convey words to tell the reader that it is "not being pressed, and released from being a problem or hindrance", but not that it is "gone and no longer existing". Today, you would say '**through Christ your sins are not being pressed, and are released from being a hindrance**'.

Remember, that the scattered Gentile converts could not use the Aaronic Priesthood to give sacrifices, so that their sins were covered and no longer exposed. Having "exposed sins" would be a problem with God's Holy Spirit dwelling in them, and a problem with them approaching the Throne of God in prayer. But the sins of believers are "released from being a problem" **through the Melchizedek Priesthood** (not the Aaronic Priesthood), **through Christ as the High Priest**. In the Melchizedek Priesthood it is Christ's sacrifice (blood) which covers our sins (1 John 1:9), hiding them, making them "released from being a hindrance" at this time. Thus, believers can stand as Righteous, and approach the Throne of God in prayer through Christ the High Priest of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The Tricks of Language and Semantics

Our religious culture exploits these semantic confusions in very clever ways. So clever, in fact, that you really have to think about what they are doing, to see how they are manipulating people through subtle trickery. Below will demonstrate this trickery.

Consider: is this line of reasoning valid?

You got Drunk at least once in your life	Therefore	You are a Drunkard
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Most will read this, and understand that this line of logic is just not necessarily true. There is a huge difference between over drinking once, or a few times, in a life time, versus over drinking all of the time as a lifestyle.

The event of “over drinking” within your lifetime does indeed represent doing some sinful activity. But “over drinking” is not part of your normal lifestyle, it is not your habitual practice to get “Drunk”. Whereas, the label of being a “Drunkard” represents a lifestyle of doing the sinful act. To be a “Drunkard” means that “over drinking” is your habitual practice. **You are not really a “Drunkard” just because you got “Drunk” at least once in your life.**

Why is it then that we allow the following line of logic to stand unchallenged?

You Sinned at least once in your life	Therefore	You are a Sinner
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Many people will read this, and will not immediately see that this logic has the same conflict as being called a “Drunkard”. Yet, it is the same line of logic as being labeled a “Drunkard”, just because you got “Drunk” at least once in your life.

The trickery is that the English phrase “you are a Sinner”, is “True” from the point of view that you now have a “black mark” on your life’s record. But, saying “you are a Sinner” may not be “True” from the point of view that you are habitually practicing sin, constantly. Again, there is a huge difference between slipping up and committing sin, versus practicing sin all of the time as a lifestyle.

But in our modern religious culture we are taught that it is being “self-righteous” to affirm:

“Yes, I have sinned, but No, I am Not a sinner.”

How often have we heard something like this line of logic?

“We have all sinned at least once, and stand as sinners before God, but through Christ all of our sins are forgiven, so, there is no difference between anyone, no matter what sins they do, so, there is no reason to keep the Law anymore, because we are saved through grace, and not by keeping the Law.”

Many people are persuaded by this line of reasoning, but, let’s look for the trickery, let’s rewrite it. Although not everyone has gotten “Drunk” at least once, let’s use this word to bring out the trickery.

“We have all got “Drunk” at least once, and stand as “Drunkards” before God, but through Christ all of our sins are forgiven, so, there is no difference between anyone, no matter how often they get “Drunk”, so, there is no reason to not get “Drunk” anymore, because we are saved through grace, and not by being “Sober”.

By rewriting the religious culture's logic, we can more easily see the trickery.

First, just because you got "Drunk" once, does not mean you are a "Drunkard". Likewise, just because you have sinned at times, does not mean that you are a sinner constantly, as a lifestyle. This means that the first premise of the world's line of logic is simply not correct.

Second, there are scriptures telling us not to get "Drunk", and certainly not to live life as a "Drunkard". Likewise with "Sinning". There are scriptures telling us not to "Sin", and certainly not to live a life filled with "Sinning". This means that the world's line of logic is ignoring the scriptures. The world's logic is totally disregarding the instructions of the apostles, Christ, and the Teachings (Torah) of God.

Third, there are direct consequences to the actions of being "Drunk". Many have felt the effects on family, jobs, and friends when a person lives life as a "Drunkard". People's sins cause pain and damage to others. That pain and damage cannot be simply dismissed as "Who Cares?"

Of course the "Drunkard" can repent, turn his life around, and stop living as a "Drunk". But even after Repentance, the consequences of their sins linger.

Likewise, nearly all sins have direct consequences to others. People feel the effects of others doing sinful actions every day. Throughout history people have felt the pain and damage of others acting sinfully. Such historical pain and damage cannot be simply dismissed as "Who Cares?"

But God does care. This is why sins must be Judged by God after the Resurrection, so that Restitution to those who have been hurt can be made, and that everyone receives Justice, (Revelation 20:11-15 in the Greek Text). Once a person's sins have been undone, once Justice has been accomplished, then the death penalty hanging over them is paid for by Christ. Then they will thereafter live for all eternity. They will have the rest of eternity to enjoy, very happily living a fulfilling and sinless lifestyle in the Garden Kingdom of God.

Appendix A

For evidence that the Ten Commandments were given to mankind before Moses, please study the following scriptures:

- I. Genesis 32:9; Exodus 3:6, 14-15; Exodus 6:3
- II. Genesis 31:19,30; Gen 35:2,4; Exodus 12:12; Exodus 18:11
- III. Genesis 3:5; Job 2:9; Genesis 18:13-14
- IV. Exodus 16:23-26; Exodus 28:29
- IV. Genesis 9:24-25; Genesis 34:30; Genesis 39:4
- V. Genesis 4:8-13; Genesis 9:6

- VI. Genesis 20:1-9; Genesis 39:9; Genesis 12:10-20; Gen 34:1-2
 - VIII. Genesis 31:34; Genesis 44:8
 - IX. Genesis 39:13-17; Genesis 3:1-5
 - X. Exodus 18:21; Genesis 3:6; Genesis 6:5
- Other Scriptures: Genesis 26:5; Genesis 6:21, 7:2; Genesis 4:7; Genesis 1:14.

Appendix B

For evidence that the New Covenant Commandments of Jesus Christ are the same as the commandments of God in the Torah, please study the following scriptures:

- John 15:10, 12, 17; 5:30; 8:13-19; 14:15, 21-24; 17:6-8; 15:20;
- John 4:19-23; 13:34.
- 1-John 5:2-3; 2:1-4, 7-8; 3:22; 3:4-8, 18, 23.
- 1-John 1:4-6; 3:4-5.
- Matthew 19:17; 7:21; 5:17; 22:36-38; 5:44.
- Hebrews 10:16.
- Luke 18:20-21.
- 1-Timothy 6:13-14.
- James 2.
- Deuteronomy 16:13-17; 14:26.
- 2-Chronacles 8:12-16.

In Service To The Brethren,
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