

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

HOW CAN I KNOW THAT GOD HAS FORGIVEN ME?

RLJ-1055

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 6: LIVING IN THE ATONEMENT

WORKING OUT YOUR SALVATION

- Many Christians are not secure in their salvation, while others are not sure that God has forgiven all their past sins, and there are still others who believe that God might have forgiven them but they must suffer in sickness and pay for their sinful lifestyle prior to Christ. Let's take look at a specific piece of scripture used by pastors to put fear into people.

*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **Philippians 2:12***

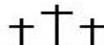
- The apostle Paul tells us to **work out** our salvation, not **work for** it!
- "Working out" is something you do with a project given to you such as a job or a gift of money. It is something that has been given to you but it is your duty to make something out of it.
- Paul tells the reader that it is God who is working in us and through us!

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. **verse 13***

- This is totally in line with the teaching that Paul gave to the church in Ephesus and repeated to the church in Galatia. **Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 3:11-14**
- It is interesting and sad at the same time, when we look at the Swedish Bible version of 1917, it is worded in such a way that it implies the Christian must "work on" his salvation (arbeta pa eder fralsning). The Greek text is very clear; it states "work out." Thus, the Arminianism theology from Holland teaches that a man is saved by grace, but in order to keep his salvation, he must work for it or he will lose it.

WHEN IS ETERNAL LIFE GIVEN TO A CHRISTIAN?

- According to Arminianism, eternal life in heaven is given at the moment of death, if the person has been able to pile up enough good works. This creates a great conflict in the Christian who believes this doctrine. There is no security, but always a nagging question, "Am I doing enough to make it?" Since no man can tell exactly how much good work must be done, it keeps the Christian in turmoil for the rest of their life on this earth. This doctrine is taught by most Pentecostal denominations, Methodists, Lutherans etc.
- The Bible teaches exactly the opposite, look at the following Bible references: **John 3:15-18, 10:27-30, 11:25-26, 17:5-22; 1 John 5:4-14**



- ❑ According to the Bible, I can make the following statement: **When a person repents of their sins and receives Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, the blood of Jesus is applied and the person is forgiven for all sins past sins, present sins and future sins! Eternal life in heaven is now given to the person. Acts 3:19**
- ❑ Arminianism gives a person hope for the possibility of eternal life in heaven at the time of death while the Bible gives us eternal life the moment we are born again!

CAN I SIN WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES?

- ❑ Here I want to quote the apostle Paul, *“God forbid!”* **Romans 3:23-31**
- ❑ All my past sins are erased; they do not exist any more. God has also forgiven me for all my future sins, *but He is holding me responsible for my actions.* This is what Paul is talking about when he tells us to work out our salvation. Each Christian has the opportunity to repent of sins as we travel on in life. **1 Corinthians 11:27-33; 1 John 1:4-10**

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

- ❑ It is at this judgment that each Christian will have to give an account of their life after the day of salvation up until their death on this earth. Paul laid it out very clearly. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11**
- ❑ Jesus told us that judgment will be swift and severe. **Matthew 5:23-26**
- ❑ Judgment on each Christian will begin while they are still living on the earth; God’s purpose for doing this not destructive but redemptive. **Galatians 6:7-9; Hebrews 12:1-13**
- ❑ Here is the good news: ***Each Christian has the wonderful option of asking for forgiveness any time and instantly removing that sin from their account!***

HOW MUCH WILL GOD FORGIVE?

- ❑ When God forgives, he forgets! As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our iniquities. **Psalms 103:1-22**
- ❑ The woman caught in adultery was forgiven by Jesus and told to go and sin no more. **John 8:3-11**
- ❑ There is now no more condemnation. **Romans 8:1-17**
- ❑ When a Christian has repented of sins, there is no payment required by the Christian, *Jesus paid it all!*
- ❑ Fear and guilt have got to go! **1 John 4:13-19**

FORGIVE, FORGET AND RECEIVE THE LOVE OF GOD!

- ❑ A murderer can be forgiven, but he still has to take his punishment from man.

- A divorced man can be forgiven, but he must still pay alimony for his children.
- Any criminal can be forgiven, but he has to make restitution to man.
- If a person has abused their body through alcohol, drugs, junk food, etc., there is forgiveness and healing for the body. **2 Corinthians 5:17-18;**
1 Peter 2:24
- Live in God's love by forgiving and accepting yourself!*

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?