

Repentance vs. Forgiveness

A proper understanding of repentance and forgiveness hinges on confession of the Savior from sin. Christian dogma generally teaches that the sinner is to confess his or her sins in order to be born again. The bible never teaches this. It does teach confession of sins, but not as the act to become born again.

The crux of Christianity

Christianity's vitality can be summed up as follows: the battle of the senses versus new birth believing. Imagine a stand-off between these two movements. On the one hand, you have a raging battle taking place among your five senses—they beg control. On the other hand, you have faith—believing God's Word implicitly. Once you realize how these interact, everything else will begin to fit within the Word of God.

Lets visit a subject of utmost concern. Why do so many



people have such difficulty drawing close to God and His Word? The question is simple, but so too is the answer.

The prophet Esaias gave us the answer long ago.

(John 12:40 KJV) He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

John quoted Isaiah: these believers were well-aware of satan's activities among people of faith.

Paul also referenced this blindness in 2 Corinthians.

(2 Cor 4:3-4 KJV) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: {4} In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

We are told that the god of this world, who is satan, orchestrates wholesale blindness. Simply put, all people, great or small, are blinded until the gospel of Christ removes it.

(Eph 2:6-10 KJV) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: {7} That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. {8} For by

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grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast. {10} For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

We who are saved by 'faith' are God's workmanship. Faith is at loggerheads with the five senses. I am the workmanship of my mother and father in my earthly birth; I am the workmanship of God in my heavenly birth.

Confession of sin is work

We should talk about confession of sins for a moment. To become born again, well-meaning folks are instructed by ignorant teachers to pray the Introductory Prayer—God be merciful to me a sinner.

One major religion teaches "Confession of sins is a necessary beginning step in the process of repenting and gaining forgiveness. It is a test of

true repentance: "By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them" (Doctrine and Covenant 58:43)."

Another states: "We are all sinners and we should all confess on a regular basis."

Yet another quotes Romans 10:9, 10 and states, "Confession of sins to God is a requirement of salvation, as well as confession that Jesus Christ is your God."

Unbelievably, they snuck in the trinity as a requirement, creating even more confusion. But those quoted verses, nor the entirety of chapter 10, say nothing of the like. We are not saved by confession of sins or belief of the trinity. Confession of sins was a vital aspect of worship during the Mosaic Law. But, that administration came to an end with Christ, meaning that those laws do not apply to Christians. If salvation is dependent on confessions of sins, how will you ever remember *all* of them?

Degrees of sin

There are no degrees of sins with God—sin is sin. What if you forget just one? Then you are not saved. Confession of sin is work, and it is hard work. You can't remember 50 sins if you tried, much less all of those that you have ever committed. Salvation is based on confession of the Savior from sin, from all unrighteousness. Then, you are born again. What happens when I confess the Savior from sin? I get born again. My sins are completely blotted out.

Repentance is confessing the Savior from sin

Repentance is confessing the Savior from sin. Then all of your sins are covered, all of them that you've ever committed. God casts them as far as the east is from the west.

(Psa 103:12 KJV) As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Did you know that the east and west never meet? If God does not remember them, why should you? Perhaps this is the Christian's great-

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est challenge—to stop dwelling on past sins? Once God has forgotten, they are forgotten. God never brings them back. If it does come back, then it is coming from a different source. God does not remember them anymore. Why do you want someone to bring them back to your conscious mind? Forget them and walk with your shoulders back and your head held high. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory!

(Acts 3:19 KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Repentance brings sonship. "Blotted out" means, "totally washed away and leaving no stain." All of those sins are completely washed away.

(Acts 2:38 KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [holy ghost – gift, not the Giver].

Repentance applies to the unsaved.

(Rom 8:14-17 KJV) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. {15} For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. {16} The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: {17} And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

This is a subject that deserves repeating a thousand-fold.

We are joint heirs with Christ now. We are heirs of God now! This will never change, not now, and not in the future. I may not always behave properly, but I always remain God's child. This also holds true with my earthly family. Even if I'm on the 'outs' with mom or dad, I am still dad's child.

Jesus Christ paid the price

It is through Jesus Christ that we are forgiven. Forgiveness is not based upon our actions. It is based upon Christ! Without Christ's accomplishments, we could never stand with God.

Remission and forgiveness

Remission and forgiveness have caused no small amount of confusion in Biblical circles today.

This word remission appears five times in the New Testament (Acts-Revelation). With one exception, it should be translated, "acknowledgment." Only one time does it actually mean remission. Interestingly, the word remission actually means, 'toleration.'

Toleration

(Rom 3:24-25 KJV) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: {25} Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his

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blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission [toleration] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

‘Remission of sins’ in verse 25 means that God tolerated the sins. The English word remission is used five times in the New Testament (Acts-Revelation). Four times, it should be translated ‘forgiveness.’ I will list these four verses here.

(Acts 2:38 KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission [forgiveness]** of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(Acts 10:43 KJV) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive **remission [forgiveness]** of sins.

(Heb 9:22 KJV) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no **r e m i s s i o n [forgiveness]**.

(Heb 10:18 KJV) Now

where **remission [forgiveness]** of these *is, there is no more offering* for sin.

Why the translators used a word other than forgiveness, we’ll never know. This single forgery has confused so many people.

Remission of sins, in Romans 3:25, states that God tolerated our past sins. If He tolerated our past, don’t you think He’ll tolerate us now? Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to make mistakes over and over again. God knows this. The answer to this problem is to come back to the Word. All that ever could be done for us was already accomplished in Christ Jesus! There are no other actions that will better you before God. We are God’s best!

Forgiveness of sins

We’ll begin the subject of forgiveness with a wonderful verse in the Book of Acts.

(Acts 26:18 KJV) To open their eyes, *and to turn them* from darkness to light, and *from the power of Satan* unto God, that they may re-

ceive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

We’re studying the same Greek word, aphesis, for forgiveness that we saw in the four verses I just listed (Acts 2:38, Acts 10:43, Hebrews 9:22 and Hebrews 10:18). ‘Forgiveness’ means, ‘to send away.’ Our sins were sent away.

Background on the Greek word aphemi

Here’s a little background on the Greek word aphemi, meaning, ‘to send away.’ This word is used in various forms, 17 times in the New Testament, and is translated ‘forgiveness (5), forgiven, forgive, left, leaving, leave, remission (4), and put away.’

Related Verses

(Acts 5:31 KJV) Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be a Prince and a Saviour*, for to give repentance to Israel, and **forgiveness** of sins.

(Acts 10:42-43 KJV)

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And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. {43} To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive **remission** [Yikes! Be careful. This word should be forgiveness.] of sins.

(Acts 13:37-39 KJV) But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. {38} Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the **forgiveness** of sins: {39} And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

(Eph 1:6-7 KJV) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. {7} In whom we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

(Col 1:13-14 KJV) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: {14} In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the **forgiveness** of sins:

(Heb 10:18 KJV) Now where **remission** [Yikes! Be careful. This word should be forgiveness.] of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin.

In these verses, remission is never properly supplied and should be changed to 'forgiveness.'

All usages of the Greek word aphiemi should be changed to 'forgiveness.' Understanding this should help remove the confusion surrounding the subject of remission" and "forgiveness. There was only one forgiving act—the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He gave His life so that we could live. Either it is true or it is a lie. You decide.

The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man

You may be familiar with the phrase "The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man." It comes from Freemasonry, a non-Christian organization best avoided.

Fatherhood of God can be defined as follows: "Monotheism is the sole dogma of Freemasonry. Belief in one God is required of every initiate, but his conception of the Supreme Being is left to his own interpretation. Freemasonry is not concerned with theological distinctions." <http://www.ephesians5-11.org/fogbom.htm>

Brotherhood refers to: "the idea of a universal brotherhood, a dwelling-together of all peoples on earth in harmony and peace." <http://www.ephesians5-11.org/fogbom.htm>

This doctrine is also communicated in churches. "The basis of this paradigm is

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rooted in the assumption that as all men have been created by the same source, namely God, they must also all belong to the same family.”

<http://www.intouch.bc.ca/pub/rpalmer/brother.htm>

Satan's lies are so subtle. Christians must be wary; Satan's lies are meant for the blind. God is Father of His children, not father of all people. God's children are my brothers and sisters, but not all people are my brothers or sisters. Once God Fathers you, you are His child forever.

When we are born again, spiritually we are in perfect alignment and harmony with God. The accomplishments of Jesus Christ completely enabled this—forever. We were tolerated until we were born again. God forgave us all sins. Henceforth, we renew our minds to the Word of God.

(Rom 12:2 KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

It is God's Will that we are forgiven. People don't hear from God because their five senses have refused them His Word. If they would believe God's Word, they would realize faith and the power of answered prayer.

Much Love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown