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A FRESH LOOK AT SALVATION

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Acts 13:38, "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto your forgiveness of sins. And by Him all that believe are justified from all things from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses."

The purpose of this message is to stir up your minds to look closer into the salvation that God reveals in His Word. The apostle Paul warns the churches of Galatia that some would pervert the gospel of Christ. To "pervert" simply means to change it into something it is not. Galatians 1:7, *"Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."* (See also Galatians 1:9.) The gospel Paul preached is declared in I Corinthians 15:1-4, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."*

I want to prove by the scriptures what the true gospel is; and what it does, is doing, and will do in the future. Also, I will prove that most of what is called the gospel is not the true gospel at all. I will prove that all those who believe and teach that you can be saved and then be lost are preaching another

gospel; that those that teach "falling from grace" are preaching another gospel; those that believe and preach that a person can be saved without hearing the gospel or without the gospel being preached, are preaching another gospel. What I say doesn't amount to much unless I prove it with the scriptures--which I will do in this message.

In order to stir up your minds and get you to think, I will ask a question. Be careful how you answer. **Can God forgive a sin before it is committed?** Better think on that question before you answer.

When we go back to our text in Acts 13:38-39, Paul says *"through this man is preached forgiveness of sins."* He also says *"by Him all that believe are justified from all things."* There is a difference between being justified and being forgiven. A person can be justified and not be forgiven. Being justified is a one time occurrence, while being forgiven is a continual thing.

Romans 5:1 says, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God."* To be justified is to be declared "not guilty." In a courtroom the language is either condemned or justified or not guilty. When a person repents and believes the true gospel, He is justified from all things. His past sins, present sins, and future sins were put away when Jesus died on the cross, He was buried, and He rose again the third day...

Since salvation is entirely by grace and not of works (Ephesians 2:8, 9); we are justified by faith (Romans 5:1; Acts 13:39). We were guilty and condemned because we were under law; but, now by faith, we enter into this grace that God

provided in Jesus (Romans 5:2). Paul says in Romans 8:1, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."* To be in Christ Jesus is to trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ and nothing else. John 3:18 tells us that *"he that believeth on Him is not condemned; But he that believeth not is condemned already."* The difference is in believing or faith in Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16 says the *"gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth,"* (keeps on believing). *"The just shall live by faith,"* Romans 1:17; and we are exhorted to not be moved away from *"the hope of the gospel"* (Colossians 1:23). In I Corinthians 15:2 Paul says, *"If ye keep in memory what I preached unto you."* This is why we have the Lord's Supper--that we can keep in memory the Lord's death.

The reason a person is only baptized once, if done properly, is that he declares that he has been justified from all things (all sins--past, present, future). As Romans 6:6 says, *"Knowing this, that our old man (sins of the flesh) is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed."* Romans 6:7, *"He that is dead or by faith trusted that Jesus died in His place is freed from sin."* Freed from all sin--past, present, and future. Read Romans 6:1-23, which describes all of this.

I say again, all who preach "falling from grace," or God saves without the gospel being preached, is preaching another gospel. I will further prove this. Not only that, but this proof will cause you to appreciate your salvation more.

Think about the question again. **Does God forgive a sin before it is committed?** Let me say right here, that Jesus died for the sins of Old Testament saints after they were committed--they looked forward to God's promise that the Saviour would come and die for them. He also died for the sins of the New Testament saints before they were committed. How could he do that unless he knows all our sins before they are committed. I Corinthians 15:3 says, "*How that Christ died for our sins.*" I Peter 2:24 says, "*Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree.*" I Corinthians 15:1, Paul was speaking to the brethren, when he declared the gospel. Only saved people know that Jesus died for them. If there is a lost sinner reading this, do you really understand this? If so, if you can trust Jesus that He died for your sins, which were all future, Paul says, "*all that believe are justified from all things...*" You can know you are saved!

There is a great difference in being justified and being forgiven. In fact no person can be forgiven his sins until He is first justified. To those that are justified from all things, there is forgiveness. I John 1:9, talking to believers only, says that *When we [believers] confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Did you know that only God's children (believers) can ask the Lord forgiveness and receive it? Their sins have already been dealt with at the cross; and, by faith, the believer is justified from all things.

Those who believe that when you sin, you must ask forgiveness or be lost, know nothing of being justified by faith. A person can confess his sins to Jesus, or a man, every day and still die and suffer in Hell. He must be born again and come to Jesus and trust him completely for salvation. Once He is justified, then, and then only, does he have the privilege stated in I John 1:9--of confessing his sins and being forgiven. God is just when He forgives his sins.

Are you beginning to see the answer to the question, **Can God forgive a sin before it is committed?** No, He cannot. But he can justify a sinner who repents and trusts His son to save Him, because those sins were punished when

Jesus died. Read Romans 3:26, "*that he might be just and the justifier of Him which believeth in Jesus.*"

Justification is a one time occurrence, while forgiveness continues the rest of a saved person's life. Baptists are guilty of misusing the words forgiven and justify. They say, "When you trust Jesus all your sins are forgiven--past, present, and future." That's simply not true. Why does the child of God ask forgiveness if he is already forgiven? We will deal with this later.

You hear lost people say, "I believe all my sins are forgiven, I will go out and sin all I please." This is the result of not knowing what this message teaches. Let me pause right here and say, I am not writing on the subject of the New Birth. In John 3:3 Jesus said, "*Except a man be born again, He cannot see the kingdom of God.*" Jesus spoke of the New Birth to Nicodemus before he brought up the subject of justification in John 3:14-18. In the New Birth, a new nature is imparted. It is "*Christ in you,*" the hope of glory, (Colossians 1:27). It is the Holy Spirit that comes in and begins to "*work in that person both to will and to do of God's good pleasure,*" Philippians 2:13. This is the reason a person is willing to come to Christ--this is the reason a saved person wants to do God's will. He that doeth the will of the father abides forever. But no one would be willing, except they be born again. Psalm 110:3, "*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.*" Also, "*we are created unto good works and have been foreordained to walk in them,*" Ephesians 2:10. But the lost sinner would never come to Christ unless the Holy Spirit began His work in Him--he would never work for Christ except he has the Holy Spirit in him and follows him. Romans 8:14 says, "*as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*" Romans 8:9 tells us that the "*Spirit of God dwells in you;*" and, if not, you are none of Him. It's no wonder that "*ye must be born of the Spirit.*"

I John 3:9 also says, "*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed [Christ] remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*" The saved sinner does not want to sin.

In fact, he hates sin, (Romans 7:15). A child of God has a nature that can't sin (Christ in you); he also still has the old nature he always had, (John 3:6; Romans 7:18). In Romans 7:24, Paul says "*O wretched man that I am [not, was].*" Therefore, the child of God still sins after He is saved. This is what I John 1:8 means, "*If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*" Also, I John 1:10, "*If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*"

If God forgives a sin before it is committed, why was I John 1:9 written, "*If we [God's children] confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...*"? Just because the blood continues to cleanse those who are justified, is not a license to sin. God's will for His children is in I John 2:1--don't you sin; but, if you do, we have an advocate (a comforter, high priest, one to help) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Listed below are a few of the scriptures that tell of Jesus Christ and those He died for:

Matthew 1:21--Came to save His people from their sins.

Hebrews 9:26--He put away (not covered) sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:4--Not possible for blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (they only covered for a year); this is why Jesus had to come into the world.

Isaiah 53:5--He was wounded for our transgressions.

Isaiah 53:6--Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all (the elect). Note: Were they still on Him when He was raised? NO--they were put away, not covered. The word "atonement" is only used once in the New Testament (Romans 5:11), and should be translated "reconciliation." Because He hath put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 10:26) and reconciled us to God by the death of His son (Romans 5:10). Being reconciled--justified freely by His grace (Romans 3:24)--we shall be saved by His life (Romans 5:10). This is the only reason God's children can confess their sins and be forgiven--they have all been

paid for and put away.

Isaiah 53:8--For the transgression of my people was He stricken.

Isaiah 53:11--By His knowledge shall my righteous servant (Jesus) justify many, for He shall bear their iniquity. The only reason He can justify them and still be just in doing so is that He bare their sins in His own body.

Jesus died only for His people. He did not die for Satan and his angels; He did not die for the Philistines and all the nations of the Old Testament; He did not die for those already in Hell; He did not die for Cain; and He did not die for the rich man already in Hell (Luke 16).

Those who are teaching that Jesus died for the whole world are preaching another gospel. If Jesus died for the whole world, the whole world would be saved because God is just and he only punishes sin once. The lost sinner would have a case in the great white throne of judgment in Revelation 20 and could say to Jesus, "you can't punish me because you died for my sins." But Jesus didn't die for them, He died for the ones who He loved, chose and wrote their names in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. This is why the Book of Life is opened in Revelation 20:12.

Those who believe you can be saved and be lost, What will you do with following scriptures?

John 1:12 says when we believe, we become the sons of God.

John 1:13 says it is the results of being born of God. Can you name one thing that has ever been born that has become unborn?

Since Jesus died for all our sins--past, present, and future; He can now receive us as sons and take us out from under law. Romans 6:14 says "*Ye are not under law but under grace.*" Before we were saved, we were under law. To be under law, is to be under the curse, (Galatians 3:10). To be under law is to be guilty, (Romans 3:19-20). To be under law is to be condemned to Hell. Then, what was the purpose of the law?

Galatians 3:24 tells us that "*the law was our schoolmaster [teacher] to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*" Romans 8:33 says that it is God that justifieth. But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster--no longer under the law. The law cannot condemn us anymore. What happens then when a child of God sins? Hebrews 12:5-11 answers this question. "*...Whom He loves he chastens and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth...*" God deals with his children just like we deal with our children. He corrects them by chastening them, but he never disowns them. They will always be his children.

John 6:37--He will in no wise cast out.

John 10:27, 28--They shall never perish.

The question again--**Does God forgive a sin before it is committed?** If He does, then why these verses of scripture?

I John 1:9--If we confess our sins...

Luke 11:4--Forgive us our sins as we forgive others.

Matthew 6:14--Neither will your heavenly Father forgive you.

Mark 11:25, 26--Your heavenly Father forgive you.

James 5:15--Pray--if he hath committed sin they shall be forgiven.

Why did the saints of God in I Corinthians 11 die if their sins were forgiven? Over and over, we see God's children confessing their sins and being forgiven but never justified but once. This is why I John 1:7 says "*the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth [keeps on cleansing] us from our sin.*" This is why we cannot live unless he lives. This is why he had to obtain eternal redemption for us. This is why he is now appearing in the presence of God for us as our High Priest. Only Jesus can forgive us our sins and He does so on the merits of His own shed blood. The child of God has his fellowship broken between him and His fa-

ther, but the Father-son relationship is never broken.

This is why the just (justified) live by faith. They are still sinners, saved by grace, justified by His blood. They are born into the family of God, translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear son, left here to be a witness of His amazing grace and His glory. We are to be laborers and ambassadors for Jesus to tell the good news to all the people of the world, knowing full well that His sheep will hear His voice and follow.

To those who believe a person can be saved without hearing the gospel, please study these scriptures:

Romans 5:2--By faith, we enter into this grace. Not in grace before faith came.

Galatians 3:23--We are kept under the law, shut up unto faith which should afterward be revealed (the work of the Holy Spirit). Lost people are under the law, under the curse, and need to be justified.

Ephesians 2:2, 3--Lost people are by nature the children of wrath even as others.

The gospel has to be preached to the lost simply because this is the way God ordained it. See I Corinthians 1:21, "*...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching [the gospel] to save them that believe.*" Romans 1:16 says "*the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.*" Those who don't believe are condemned, (John 3:18).

What must I do to be saved?
"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

- We are justified from all things-- Acts 13:39.
- We are forgiven up to that point.
- We are received as a Son of God-- John 1:12.
- We are taken out from under law, put under grace--Romans 6:14.
- We are then dwelt with as His children, not as the lost.

Alleluia! What a Saviour! What a salvation! What a hope! What a message!

Acts 13:38-39, *"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."* This is the true gospel and those that preach anything else are preaching another gospel.