

*In
search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

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Will God Forgive Me

By Timothy R. Henderson

A question that is asked by many, and easily answered, Yes, He will. Psalm 86:5 states *"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You."* The scriptures teach us that God would have all men come to repentance, 2 Pet. 3:9 *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."* We see by these verses that the Lord is *"ready to forgive"* and *"not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance"*

Many think their sins are so great that God will not forgive them. They believe their sins are much too grievous and that forgiveness for them is too much to ask from the Lord. Please follow along with me as we look at several cases of sinners in the Word of God and see if God was willing to forgive them.

Adulterers:

One of the most famous cases of adultery is found in the story of David and Bathsheba. David was an important man, of whom God said he was *"a man after My heart"* (Acts 13:21-22). But David was not a perfect man. He had problems and one of those problems was lust for Bathsheba. While walking on the roof of the king's palace, David spotted a beautiful woman bathing. He inquired about her, and though it was made known that she was the wife of another man, Uriah the Hittite, he still lay with her. After it became known that she was pregnant, he did what he could to have her husband lie with her to cover his sins. He committed adultery, but as we see later in the book of 2 Samuel he was forgiven of his sins. The Lord sent Nathan to tell David of his evil deed relating to him a story (see 2 Samuel 12:1-5). When Nathan finished the story, David was furious with the man concerned. Yet when Nathan said *"You are the man"*, David finally understood the gravity of his sin. Could he have expected forgiveness? He had condemned himself to death according

TIMES OF SERVICES	
SUNDAY	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

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to verse 5, but we are told in 2 Samuel 12:13-14, *"Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.'"* The Lord put away the sin of David, He forgave him. Will He not also forgive us?

In John 8:1-11, the apostle John records that Jesus had come into the temple and was teaching. As He was teaching the Scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery, taken in the act. They tested Him saying *"Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?"* Jesus made a clear point in saying *"He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."* When all of her accusers had left, being convicted of their own sin, He asked the woman *"where are they? Did no one condemn you?"* When she answered *"No one, Lord"*, He said to her *"I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."* The Lord forgave her of the sin of adultery. Matthew 9:6 tells us He had the power to do so. If Jesus was willing to not condemn this woman caught in the very act of adultery, would He not also be willing to forgive us our sins?

Thieves:

In the story of the thief on the cross, we again find the Lord willing to forgive. In Luke 23:39-43 we have Luke's account of the conversation that took place between Jesus and the criminals that were crucified with Him. One said *"Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"* (verse 39), but the other rebuked him, and asked Jesus to *"remember me when You come in Your kingdom"* (verse 42). The Lord immediately answered him and said *"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."* (verse 43). Jesus forgave him of his sins. If He is willing to forgive such a thief, would He not also forgive us?

Murderers:

When I think of murderers, evil men come to mind. Men like on Death Row, who according to the laws of the land are deserving of the death penalty. Although these are truly evil men, and guilty of judgment by the laws of the land, they have just the same opportunity of forgiveness as we do.

Let's look at some of the murderers of the Bible and see if they were allowed forgiveness. One of these cases is that of David, king of Israel. Having already discussed his sin of adultery, let's look at what happened afterwards. When his trickery to have Uriah lie with his wife did not work, he sent him to be killed, sending word to have Uriah placed in the hottest part of the battle. David knew he would die. He committed murder. But he was forgiven. Should he have expected forgiveness? He himself said that he should die for his deeds after hearing Nathan's story. Look at 2 Samuel 12:13-14 again *"Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.'"* The Lord took away the sin of David, He forgave him. David still had to bear the physical penalty for his sin. His punishment was the death of his son, born of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba, but the Lord forgave him. Would He not also forgive us?

Another murderer that we find recorded in the scriptures, is not often thought as such. When Paul's name is mentioned, we automatically think of a man who made great accomplishments in teaching the world of Jesus. Before Paul was Paul, he was known as Saul of Tarsus, a name that struck fear in the hearts of Christians (Acts 9:13,14). He was a man who had committed many Christians to prison, even consenting to their deaths (Acts 8:1; 9:1-2; 22:20). Because of him many Christians died. How could he expect forgiveness? He hindered the teaching of the Word of God by condemning Christians to death. Could he expect God to forgive him? Luke records in Acts 22:16 that Saul was indeed allowed forgiveness of his sins *"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."* Saul's sins were washed away. He obtained forgiveness of his sins. If the Lord would forgive

someone such as Saul of Tarsus, would He not also forgive us?

We can also look at the Jews on the day of Pentecost. In Acts chapter 2 a group of Jews had gathered together with the Apostles. During Peter's sermon, in verse 36 he convicts them of murder, "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.*" He gets personal. He says, "*Whom **YOU** crucified*"; whom you have murdered, killed. "*Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'*" (verse 37). Now if any man on earth were to be undeserving of forgiveness for murder, would it not be the very men who had murdered the Son of God? Would not they be the last people on earth to receive the blessed grace of God? Yet in verse 38 we find Peter telling them "*Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" Vines Expository Dictionary defines remission as - "a dismissal, release." We can see then that those who repented and were baptized would have their sins dismissed, or released. They would be forgiven of this hideous crime they had committed. Now if the Lord would forgive those who crucified His Son, would He not also forgive us?

Finally let's look at the worst lot of people we can find in the Bible next to Sodom and Gomorra. The Corinthians were an evil group. The apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 describes to us the class of sinners that were found in Corinth. "*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ Such were some of you;*" Did you notice what was said in verse 11 "*Such were some of you.*" He is describing the lifestyle of the members of the church in Corinth. Could people of this standard receive forgiveness from God? Would they not be considered in the same context as the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorra, or the world before the flood? Let's look at the rest of verse 11 "*but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*" Because of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ, even these sinners could receive forgiveness of sins. If the Lord would forgive men and women such as the Corinthians, would He not also forgive us?

There are many other cases of sinners in the Bible, both great and small that we could spend time talking about, but I believe that these will suffice to show that God has offered forgiveness of sins to all men. But we must understand that this is not just some blanket forgiveness that will cover all sins that are committed by men. There are some sins that God will not forgive. ALL SINS that are not repented of will not be forgiven. We must understand that it is too late at the point of death.

We must make use of today, and the wondrous grace of God. He will forgive you of your sins, no matter how horrendous they are, but only if you confess them, repent of them, and have them washed away in baptism.

News N Notes

Sick:

- Terry Smith's brother George, suffering from Kidney Cancer
- Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
- Cindy North
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Marie Roberts
- Ed Roberts father
- Grace Lancaster
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother during her rehabilitation following surgery

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Rhea Henthorn
- Pauline Midcap
- A card, phone call or a visit can really brighten someone's day.