

# Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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## Every Saint Has A Past!

Saw this on a marque – somewhere years ago.

**T**he saying, “Every saint has a past . . .” is important to understanding forgiveness and grace. The Bible is full of such people. Moses murdered someone. Noah was a drunk. Rahab was a harlot. David committed adultery. Saul of Tarsus was known for his slaughter against the disciples of the Lord. Thomas was a doubter – as were all disciples. Peter denied the Lord. Does this give license to live in sin? No, the above shows us how we each one stand in need of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ; we stand in need of His forgiveness and His Holy Word to guide us to Jesus Christ Who is “the way, the truth and the life” (Jn 14.6).

Though the Lord God is a forgiving God, His forgiveness is given to us when we repent of our sins. Repentance comes when our hearts are pricked because of the sin in our hearts and lives, and we ask the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us. It is a heart that cries out, having walked in disobedience to the Lord, having walked against Him and His teachings.

Repentance is from a sinful heart that has walked in disobedience to the Lord God and desires to walk with the Lord Jesus in His holiness and His righteousness. The Bible teaches us that **OUR** righteousness is as filthy rags (Isa 64.6).

When we repent of our sins each day, we come making a one hundred eighty degree turn in our lives, turning from Satan, from sin, and turning to the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance brings us to turning from Satan and turning to the Lord Jesus Christ – to walk in newness of life. It is a change of heart.

What about you? What is it you need to confess and for which you need to repent? Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you and to fill you with the Holy Spirit. The Word of the Lord shows forth the mercy of the Lord.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, *[so]* great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, *[so]* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Like as a father pitieth *[his]* children, *[so]* the LORD pitieth them that fear him (Ps 103.11-13).

all the way in this life. He does not discard us because we have sinned. He calls us to repentance, true repentance; He forgives us and remembers our sins no more – and calls us to walk with Him, to serve Him with joy and gladness of heart.

Today is the day of “salvation,” the day to say, “Yes,” to Jesus Christ and begin looking up to the hills from whence cometh your help; your help is in the Lord (Ps 121). Rejoice; with joy and gladness of heart, **HEAR** the voice of the Lord.

**Today, dear Saint,** thank the Lord that, Thy sins be forgiven thee (Ps 103.12).

**Today, dear Sinner,** thank the Lord for the future you can have in Jesus Christ when you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior – and walk with Him – **ALL THE WAY.**

**Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.**

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**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more (Heb 8.12)

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more (Heb 10.17). . .

The Word of the Lord makes clear that the Lord will forgive us of our sins. In the Old Testament, there was a remembrance of sin as there was the annual sacrifice offered unto the Lord (Heb 10.3). BUT, when Jesus came, He came once and for all. When we repent of our sins, they are remembered no more.

God uses what we give to Him – our lives. God will use saints with a past if they repent of their sins and surrender their lives to Him.

Walk on in newness of life each day in Christ Jesus as a forgiven saint.

**“... and every sinner has a future.”** Moses murdered someone. Yes, but Moses gave his life to the Lord God and lived for Him, walking in obedience to Him. Moses was used greatly of the Lord God to lead the Children of Israel out of bondage and into the land of Canaan, the “promised land.” Moses gave his life whole heartedly to God to be used for this most difficult and challenging service in the Lord’s work.

David committed adultery. Yes, he had many sins in his life. Those of you who believe your past is too sinful for the Lord to forgive and to use for His glory, read about King David in the Bible. He also had one of his generals killed. God used the prophet Nathan to bring King David to the realization of the sinfulness of his heart (II Sa 12). But, David was willing to listen, to repent, to give his life over to the Lord for the Lord to cleanse him and to use him mightily as King of Israel.

Yes, David experienced consequences, but he was forgiven by the Lord God. The Lord God of Israel used King David mightily because David knew he was forgiven and chose to walk on with the Lord in newness of life in Him.

When people see and know and experience the Holy Spirit working in them to bring them to repent of their sins, and they repent and lay their lives before the Lord, the Lord will use them to accomplish what He wants done in and through them – and for His glory.

King David knew he was a sinner, but he did not wallow in it. He asked for forgiveness and received the forgiveness for his sins that he might be cleansed, knowing the Lord had cast his sins away as far as the east is from the west, and that his sins were remembered no more (Ps 103.12).

Saul of Tarsus (Paul) was known for his “threatenings and slaughter of the disciples of the Lord,” the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 9). He had many imprisoned. He was the Pharisee of the Pharisees, and he set out to annihilate the Christians of that day, those whose lives were surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. But when the Lord called to Saul, Saul heard the call of the Lord and chose to surrender his life to the Lord Jesus Christ and to live for Him – come what may. The Lord God used Paul to write thirteen epistles in the New Testament, thirteen books, (Romans through Philemon).

Thomas was a doubter – as were all disciples, as are all today in one way or another (Jn 20.19, 20, 26-28). But, he walked on with the Lord.

Peter denied the Lord three times. We are reminded of that in John 21.13ff. This is powerful. Peter walked with the Lord, close to the Lord for three years as one of His disciples. And yet, hear this! Peter denied the Lord three times (Jn 13.38). The Lord reminded Peter in John 21.15-17 that he denied Him. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter, in the Greek, answered only that he had brotherly affection for the Master. He did not use the same word Jesus did for love in John 21. I believe Jesus’ questioning Peter three times reminded Peter what he said in Luke 22.33, “...Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” Peter’s heart must have been very heavy with the remembrance of denying the Lord.

But, the Lord knew what Peter did not know: Pentecost was “just around the corner.” The Lord Jesus Christ knew that Peter would walk with Him all the way, that Peter was yet to keep his vow in Luke 22.33. Though Peter’s sin loomed large in his heart, the Lord gave to Peter the command to “feed my sheep.” The Lord goes on to tell Peter that he will yet keep His vow, “...but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry [thee] whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God . . .” (Jn 21.18, 19). Peter, experiencing Pentecost, being filled with the Holy Spirit, preached a powerful sermon (Acts 2.14-47) and went on to serve the Lord mightily even in prison (Acts 12) – and in death.

What about you? What is it the Lord has called you to do after walking with these sinners whom the Lord God of Israel, in Christ Jesus, used mightily WHEN they repented and CHOSE TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE in Jesus Christ?

**Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.** It is time to let go of all that holds you from serving the Lord. Satan is so good at accusing the brethren (Rev 12.10); he wants to see you despair, see you spend your thoughts and time on the past so that your future is not spent serving the Lord as did Peter so powerfully. Awake! For the Lord is calling you today to let go of all that holds you down, all that discourages you from serving the Lord, all that distracts you from having eyes to behold the glory of the Lord in your life, all that bends your ears away from the Lord, that keeps your ears from being fine-tuned as an instrument to the hearing of the voice of the Lord calling you to serve Him. Let go of listening to the accuser of the brethren, accusing you so that your heart is torn rather than melding with the Lord Jesus Christ and surrendering your all to Jesus Christ and serving Him.

Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary, was crucified for our sins that we might have life eternal with Jesus now and forevermore. Jesus loves you and me so very much that He wants us to walk with Him “In The Garden” alone, seeking His face, seeking His will in our lives. Jesus Christ loves you and me so very much that He desires that none should perish, that none should go to hell. It is because He died on the Cross of Calvary that we have salvation available to us, life for evermore with Him. He has made a way of salvation for us and calls us to walk with Him