

Hope for the Sinner

Today, we wish to proclaim a message of hope, and encouragement, for both; those who have already come to know they are a child of grace (the saved,) and those who have not yet come to know they are a child of God (the unsaved) but believe themselves to be sinners. Below we have listed some bible texts that point out many kinds of sins, which can be forgiven. We will address them in the reverse order they appear in scripture.

Re 21:1-8; 1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

In these verses, we are told of the glorious future, of those who have been born-again and become children of God. We are told that Christ Jesus will make all things new. This then is the glorious hope, of the children of God, to spend eternity with Christ.

In these verses, we are given a list of sins, which will keep those, who have not been born-again, out of the eternal kingdom of God. We are also told; if you are not born-again, your eternal destiny is the lake of fire and brimstone.

1Ti 1:9-17; 9 "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. 12 ¶ And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. 17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Paul gives us a list of sins, which is comprehensive and covers everyone. None are excluded by the word "*sinners*." Why? We are told in God's word: **Ro 3:10-12; 10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."** Wherefore, every person is a sinner, none are excluded. Well, what about Jesus? He was a person, wasn't he? Yes, but he had a prepared body of flesh, and his flesh was sinless. Why? Because his body of flesh was created by God, not as ours, which is created by the normal process of procreation as designed by God.

Paul goes on to tell us in verse **13 "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."** Paul says: you have every reason to believe that you can be saved. Why? Because Jesus saved me, and I am the chief of sinners. Every saved child of God should witness with Paul in this.

"for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting." Paul tells us; he established a "*pattern*" to be followed by God's people. Paul did not address this to ministers, but to all who believe. If you have come to believe that you are a child of God, saved by the finished work of Christ Jesus; you have the greatest hope to be had on earth. You also have the responsibility of sharing the good news of the gospel; Jesus died for sinners. We are to all be sowing seed, which seed is the word of God, seen in: **Lu 8:11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."**

1Co 6:9-11; 9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

The sins listed here will cover most of the known sins of mankind, which we are told will exclude all people, who have not been born-again, from the eternal kingdom of God. However, notice verse **11 "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."** We are told that some of us were guilty of these sins, yet we have been cleansed from our sin and stand justified, before God the Father, in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah! This verse is for the born-again child of God, who understands they are a sinner who is saved by the atoning and redemptive work of Christ on the cross.

What about the ones who have been born-again, but do not understand what has happened in their life? They just know something has changed, and their conscience is now pricked with sin. This is where the sowing of the seed, preaching of the gospel, comes in. Whether it be by the ministers of God, or the walks and talks of another child of God. We are to witness to one another. Each person, of the visible church, has knowledge of what God has saved them from. Each one can say to the ones, who do not understand yet; if God can save me, he certainly can save you.

Every person, of the visible church, should not only have personal knowledge; but should also have scriptural knowledge, to substantiate that Jesus is in the business of saving lost, hell doomed, sinners. Remember: **1Ti 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."** We should be able to take the scriptures and

show those, who have already been born-again but do not understand it, "**the**" way of salvation and eternal life provided for those who believe. This is the process of conversion.

Only those, who have already been born-again, can receive the gospel message, and be turned from their former way to the way of the Lord. How do we know this? **Ac 28:27 "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."** If you have not been born-again, you do not have the ability to see, hear, or understand, the things of God, which are spiritual.

If you have been born-again, you can see, hear, and understand, which is how the sowing of the seed, the word of God, is made effectual in a sinner's life. The Holy Spirit, which indwells each one that is born-again, knows the truth of God. The Holy Spirit will make the sown seed effectual in the born-again person's life. We are not saving them eternally; we are only sowing seed, and the Holy Spirit is doing the work of bringing them to understand they have been born-again already. The Holy Spirit gift of faith in them will convince them; the finished work of Christ Jesus is indeed sufficient, and they will be made willing to come forward and join the visible church body.

I repeat: **11 "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."** This is the hope of the sinner who has been born-again. To understand that through the virgin birth, the life, the death, the resurrection, and ascension of Jesus into the eternal kingdom, Jesus accomplished the eternal redemption of our sins, no matter how atrocious they may seem to us. When you understand this; you are ready to join the hallelujah chorus, and sing praises, give thanks, and bestow honor, upon the One Saviour and Lord, who has provided "**the**" way of salvation by grace to you. Hallelujah! Amen!