

## **HOW GOD TREATS A “CHIEF SINNER” (1 Timothy 1:15-16)**

### **I. Illustrations of what God does with forgiven sins.**

- A. God “remits:” our sins (Acts 2:38; Matthew 18:21-35).
  - 1. Sin is a tremendous debt that no mere man could pay.
  - 2. However, this great debt was paid with greater compassion.
  - 3. This remittance is a release of the sinner from the hold of sin, literally, to cause to stand away.
  - 4. We think about remission of certain diseases.
  - 5. The progress of that disease is stopped.
  - 6. The progress of the disease of sin is stopped (Matthew 26:28).
- B. God “blots out” sin (Acts 3:19).
  - 1. This phrase literally means to “wipe clean; to erase.”
  - 2. In ancient times a debt would be marked on a wax tablet.
    - a. When paid or satisfied it would be wiped clean.
    - b. Hence the term, “wipe the slate clean.”
    - c. The surface could then be used for other record keeping.
  - 3. God has wiped our slate clean - the record of our sins has been removed forever and is forever gone.
- C. God “cleanses us from all sins” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 22:16; Hebrews 10:17).
  - 1. Sin causes our souls to be filthy.
  - 2. The blood of Jesus is the only cleansing agent (Revelation 1:5).
- D. God “forgets” our sins (Ezekiel 18:21-22; Hebrews 10:17).
  - 1. Once the sin has been removed, God views it as never having taken place.
  - 2. The consequence may remain but the past forgiven sins no longer cause separation of God from the forgiven.
  - 3. There is free and complete forgiveness.
- E. God “subdues our iniquities” (Micah 7:19a).
  - 1. The idea is that of a helpless person under attack.
  - 2. God destroys the attackers and ends the assault.
  - 3. Sin causes destruction, but God helps the helpless when they obey Him.
- F. God “throws away” our sins (Micah 7:19b).
  - 1. They are thrown into the deepest part of the ocean.
  - 2. There is a total separation of sin from the one who obeys.
  - 3. God places our repented of sins in a place where they will never be recovered - they have no power over us.
- G. God “removes” the effects of sin (Psalm 103:12).
  - 1. Try to think of the most distant point from you and God has put your forgiven sins beyond that point.
  - 2. East and West never meet, thus the removal is complete.
  - 3. We will never have to meet those sins again.

### **II. We must do our part.**

- A. One must never think that man has no part in the atonement of sin.
- B. Jesus paid the price and offers pardon, but we must accept that offer of pardon from Jesus.
- C. A pardon offered does not become effective until it is accepted (Isaiah 1:18-20).
- D. A bulletin article makes this point clear (**Read from article**).
- E. Just as sure as I am standing here, there are people in this audience who will never know God's answer to sin because they are unwilling to accept His offer of pardon (2 Thessalonians 1:8).
  - 1. In each of the verses we read in the New Testament about what God does with sin, we discover that God only does that for those who are obedient (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16; 1 John 1:7).
  - 2. God is more than willing to forgive if we are obedient (Isaiah 1:19-20).

### III. **Two lessons throughout the Bible.**

- A. Sin brings tragedy into our lives.
  - 1. Look at the effects it had on Adam's family.
  - 2. Look at what it did to those in Noah's day.
  - 3. This tragedy can be answered only by choosing to be obedient to God.
  - 4. If we choose to reject His mercy we will be lost (Ezekiel 18:23-24).
- B. Once we obey God and accept His grace, we are free and saved.
  - 1. Those past forgiven sins will not condemn us because God's grace has forgiven us (1 John 3:19-20).
  - 2. Even if our hearts hold within them the regret of old sins, one who has been obedient to God does not need to live in fear because of those old sins.
  - 3. God's forgiveness is comprehensive.

From a sermon outline by Bobby Gayton