



Set Free From Sins

There's an old story about a pastor who heard of a widow in his church who claimed to have regular conversations with Jesus.

The pastor decided he needed to stop that “nonsense” dead in its tracks. After all, we can't have people talking with Jesus, can we? The next time the pastor saw the widow he said, “By the way, the next time you talk with Jesus would you please ask him to tell you about sins in my life no one knows about. Be sure and call me when he tells you.”

A week or two later the widow called the pastor and told him that she had talked with Jesus again. The pastor said, “Really? Well, did he tell you about my sins that no one knows about?” The widow said, “I asked him, but Jesus said he couldn't remember your sins.”

Does God remember or does he forget our sins?

Christ-less religion tells us that we are sinners and we deserve to die because we offended God. If God doesn't take our lives to pay for our sins, Christ-less religion says somebody has to die. Whose life would be worth paying for the sins of the entire world?

Well, of course, God himself. So Jesus, the Son of God came to this earth to make the Father happy. God the Father would only be happy with us if blood was spilled—so to spare us the death we so richly deserve, Jesus, God the Son, took the hit. He substituted his life for ours.

According to the laws of the old covenant given to the nation of Israel, the blood of bulls and goats was shed so that sin could be forgiven. But Jesus came to end all of that—ALL OF THAT.

Jesus gave his earthly life to terminate the old covenant—so our relationship with God is not based on an old covenant where he demands bloodshed before we can be reconciled with him.

The cross of Christ is all about the institution of a new way of life. It's all about a religion-less relationship with God. That's why Hebrews 10:4 says “It is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

But the religion of Christendom distorts and twists the blood of Jesus. According to Christ-less religion God is still angry with you and me because of what we have done.

The gospel of Jesus Christ insists that God is not filled with wrath. That idea is a pagan idea that causes many, in the name of Jesus Christ, to completely misrepresent and misunderstand God.

God is love. Humans are all about punishment, wrath and vengeance.... that's not God. Someone who tells us God is like that might be a nice and sincere person, but they are deceived. They have no clue.

The cross of Christ was not God the Son appeasing the wrath of God the Father, suffering in the most horrible way possible so that God the Father would not kill you and me and everyone else who ever lived.

The cross of Christ was the love of God, the greatest demonstration of love ever, in which Jesus willingly accepted, received and absorbed all of the human wrath, hatred, violence and animosity that humans can ever imagine or perpetrate.

Jesus didn't come to this earth filled with violence, wrath or with punitive or retributive justice.

God didn't solve the problem of the suffering caused by sin by inflicting more suffering—Jesus solved the problem of sin and suffering by ingesting and assimilating all human hostility and hatred.

The peace of God is possible—forgiveness is freely given because Jesus quenched the fires of the hell of hatred and vindictive resentment—***hell burned itself out in Jesus.***

The love of our Lord quenched the fires of any hell that we might experience or that someone might hold over our head. But in order to be free from the power of hatred and retribution, we must accept his new life in order to be healed from the toxic hurt and suffering of Christ-less religion.

At the beginning of our message we related the story of the widow who told her pastor that Jesus told her that he could not remember the pastor's sins.

Now of course that story introduces a fascinating question—if there is something God cannot do, doesn't that mean that he is not God?

The answer is that *God chooses to forget.* Of course God has a perfect memory. But when it comes to his relationship with you and me, he chooses to do something we cannot do with each other—God forgives and forgets. □

Join us for “Set Free from Sins” at the audio teaching ministry of Christianity Without the Religion, the week of January 26, 2020.