

My Thoughts for Sunday, 7 August 2016

“You can’t Out-sin God’s Love”

“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”

Matthew 18:21-22 (KJV)

So you want to be a Christian? You want to follow Christ? You want to live by His commands? So you do the math. Jesus says to forgive your brother seventy times seven times when he sins against you. That’s four hundred and ninety times...if you take it literally. However, when Jesus and the Bible use the number seven it is understood to be the number of completeness. Therefore, seven times seventy is actually completeness times completeness times ten for good measure. You must forgive your brother as Christ has forgiven you. With no limitations. Look at what the Psalmist said when speaking of our Savior and Lord... *“Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.”* (Psalm 103:3) The Psalmist does not say He pardons four hundred and ninety of your sins, but ALL your sins.

WOW! This means I can continue in my sinful life and God will continue to forgive me, forever! Don’t fool yourself. Would you like your children to feel this way? Would you let them do whatever they wanted to do, even when you told them to stop and behave? I doubt it. Just like you, God demands obedience from those He has taken out of this corrupt system of things and shown the promises and glories that await those who believe in that great gospel message written in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 16... *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him, might not perish, but have everlasting life.”* God knows that we, in our sinful state, cannot, by our own volition, live a perfect sin-less life. This is why He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world, that by His perfect life and innocent death on the cross and through His resurrection, He might cover our sins with His blood and make us holy in the eyes of His Father in heaven. Through this resurrection, Jesus has opened Heaven to all believers made holy by His blood. We are assured of an eternal home in heaven with our Creator.

But what is going to happen when I blow it, and I know I will? I am sure I will sin again, many times, in my life. Do I have to start over? What must I do to get back that forgiveness from my Lord? That’s the easy part, repent of your sins, ask

for His forgiveness and He will give it to you. If you can forgive those who sin against you, how much more will your loving God forgive you when you backslide? His love is at a level that is impossible for us to begin to imagine. Would you be willing, if it were possible, to give your son into death to declare those who sinned against you innocent and free of their sins? I know I am nowhere near that forgiving, loving or righteous. He did it for you! See what the apostle Paul wrote to the Roman Christians that has been passed down to us. *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:6-8

That’s what this GOOD NEWS of the gospel is all about. The very best part of this good news is that your God loves you. He is not just aware of your existence. He doesn’t just want you to be happy in this life. He truly and actively loves you. He is always offering you the very best of His attention. He wants to know what is troubling you. He wants to be like a loving father to you if you just go to Him and lay your troubles and cares at His feet. Let Him wrap His loving arms around you and take away all your cares of this sinful world.

Remember Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son? The son didn’t want to wait for his inheritance but pleaded with his father to give it to him early and he would go out into the world and make his own way. Some time later he returned, broke and destitute, willing to be fed at the pigs’ trough. His father welcomed him home with open arms, a new robe and a feast because he was so overjoyed that his son had returned. This is you! This is me! This is all the many who have left their loving Father’s home to live a life we felt would be more enjoyable. We finally made it back home, spiritually broken and destitute. We have been taken back into the loving arms of our heavenly Father; forgiven, loved and treated like royalty because we have returned to the Father who never stopped loving us. Do you truly see what this parable is all about?

This is the gospel. This is that bottomless love of a Father that never turns His face away from you. The Father that is always waiting for you and me, when we stray, to come back home to His loving arms. Though you can’t out-sin this love of God, you should readily be at His table to receive the bountiful blessings He is pouring out for us all. Make Him happy. Give all your troubles and cares to Him. He loves to love you and remove all your burdens.

Come home my friend. This is the gospel. This is the good news that our Savior died on the cross to make available to all lost souls. Come home to the loving arms of your Creator, your Father.