

Question: Does their baptism or their prayer for forgiveness allow them to pick up where they are and continue together in a sexual relationship? In response to these questions, some today are eager and vocal in answering in the affirmative. However, let us examine several points.

First, there is no question that baptism or prayer will wash away sins (providing one repents of his sins). But repentance demands a resolve to cease from a sinful activity. A couple in an adulterous relationship must resolve to cease from the sinful sexual activity in which they engage if they desire the forgiveness that comes through repentance.

Some suggest that baptism washes away their former adulterous relationship and allows them to continue together after baptism or prayer. However, does baptism or prayer sanction as holy that which prior to baptism or prayer was unholy? Can you name one thing that is sinful before baptism that is not sinful after baptism? What was sinful before baptism is still sinful after baptism. Baptism and prayer are not some kind of magic that changes sinful activities into un sinful ones.

Some have suggested that such a position on adultery makes the Gospel "bad news" rather than "good news" to a great and growing number of divorced and remarried people. However, to suggest that the Gospel would not be good news to a couple living in sin, is very shortsighted.

The message of salvation is always good news! At times, it might require some very difficult decisions to be made, but it is still good news. Could one not also argue that the Gospel would be "bad news" to the drunkard, homosexual, and liar? Would it be considered bad news for a doctor to tell a concerned patient that with a few weeks of radiation (Which will have some painful side effects), he can be totally cured?

Some will also claim that God could not possibly ask a man and woman to break up their relationship if children were involved. While I would never attempt to minimize the difficulty of such situations, the hardship cannot be allowed to determine what is right or wrong. One must remember that the hardship was not brought on by God, but by man's disobedience to God's commands. In the past, God has demanded such separations: "now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do His pleasure; and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives" (Ezra 10:44).

Since the Scriptures teach that when one divorces and remarries without the cause being fornication, he or she commits adultery, and as long as he/she remains in that relationship,

he/she remains an adulterer. Since this is the case, it becomes imperative to get the message out. To teach people what God said on this important subject. We need to inform the world of God's law regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage before they find themselves entangled in this sin, because to a large extent, people will turn their backs on God before they will their mate.

The Path to Greatness

By Dan Flournoy

CHRIST often repeated: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matt. 3:12; Lk. 14:14; 18:24). Real humility involves the forgetting of self. Jesus is our example who "emptied Himself, taking on the form of a servant..." (Phil. 2:7). We must be emptied of self before we can be filled with grace. Rowland Hill said, "poverty of spirit is the bag into which Christ puts the riches of His grace."

The source of true humility is a consciousness of the presence of the majesty of god. The ancient prophet Isaiah was lifted up in a vision to stand in the throne room of the Almighty. At the majesty of God, he cried, "Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts" (Isa. 6:5). When the majesty and glory of God is seen, one is driven to his knees in humility to exclaim, "God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Lk. 13:13).

The warning of Jesus is against being overeager to be at the top. Jesus did not say that we are not to be great, for our lives are to have value. It is the way we try to elevate ourselves of which Jesus speaks. The path to greatness is the path of service. "Whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all" (Mk. 10:44). Jesus demonstrated this truth as He took the place of the servant and washed His disciples feet (Jn. 13:1-7). Horatius Bonar expressed it this way: "Go, labor on; spend and be spent, thy joy to do the Father's will; it is the way the Master went; should not the servant tread it still?"

Heartland Herald

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Michael Demory

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All members of the church

Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am
Wednesday—7:00pm

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Steps to Salvation

- **Hear the Word** (Romans 10:17)
- **Believe** (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Repent** (Luke 13:3)
- **Confess Christ** (Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Baptism** (1 Peter 3:21)
- **Faithful Living** (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- **Bearing fruit** (Colossians 1:10)

Volume 4 No. 42
May 16, 2010

Heartland Herald

Practicing 1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century

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Christians are Free From the Law of Moses

By Richard Melson

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E confidently affirm that the Christian is free from the Law of Moses (Eph. 2:13-16; Col. 2:13-15). In proving this affirmation the following facts are presented.

The Law of Moses was Temporary & Limited

Jehovah gave the Law of Moses to the Jews four hundred and thirty years after the promise was given to Abraham (Gal. 3:15-17; Gen. 15:13-14; Deut. 5:1-6). This was not given to the fathers, but to those whom Jehovah had brought out of the bondage in Egypt. Not only was this law (covenant/testament/will) limited to the Jewish race alone, it was also temporary. Jehovah proclaims that He would: make a new covenant, not like the old, but write it in hearts, all would know the Lord, and He would forgive their sins and remember them no more (Jer. 31:31-34). When the work of the Law was completed it was to be removed, thus Paul would write, "What then is the law? It was added because of transgression, TILL the seed should come to whom the promise hath been made..." (Gal. 3:19).

The Law of Moses Was a Dividing Wall

The apostle Paul says in Ephesians 2:13 that the Gentiles "once were far off..." And that there was a "middle wall of partition," (vs. 14) between the Jew and Gentile which was the Law of Moses, "having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; (vs. 15) "having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us..." (Col. 2:14). It was God who put this dividing wall there, to prepare the way for the Christ (Gal. 3:19-4:7). God taught Israel that they could not save themselves by simply lawkeeping (Rom. 8:3; Gal. 2:15) and He wanted them to see the sinfulness of sin (Rom. 3:19-20; 7:13). Too, Jehovah used this wall to teach the Gentiles that they could not save themselves with their own wisdom.

"For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21).

Though divided by the Law of Moses, both Jew and Gentile were obligated to obey the law they were given (Gentiles the Patriarchal, Romans 1:18-2:15; Heb. 1:1-2) until God was ready to remove the wall that separated the two

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

Mya Kulle (tumor)
 Kristy Farr
 Jo Gordon
 Ruby Bagwell
 Scharles & Graham Ballard
 Preston Estes family
 Our new evangelism effort
 Lilly Rucker & family
 Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors are growing
 Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis

Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.
 Natalie Bauman—M.S.
 Wade Miller—diabetes
 Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God
 Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God
 Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
 Kaiser family
 Eric Boor—blood disease
 Rockfalls church of Christ
 TV Program
 State of our Nation
 The closing of Planned Parenthood
 The church
 The erring & the Lost

Military

Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
 Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
 Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan
 Jason Cunningham—Stateside
 Jon McCain—Tech Training
 Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way

Evangelizing the World

Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
 Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
 Brian Sherrell—Rockfalls, IL.
 Bernie Guzman—Philippines

Robert Lukenbill—Newton, Iowa
 Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir
 James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
 Derrick Brown —Jamaica
 Gary Workman—Ukraine
 Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
 G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
 John O'Neal—India & Ghana
 Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
 Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan
 Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

Calendar of Events

- **May 26**—Edit new program @ Mediacom 1-5pm
- **June 6-10**—Gospel Meeting; Dubuque, IA
- **July**—County Fair Booth
- **August/2nd week**—Power Lectures—Southaven, MS
- **Sept/3rd week**—St. Louis Lectures
- **October 18-21**—Lectureship—Dubuque, IA

Christ Abolished the Law of Moses

God having proven that all are guilty before Him (Rom. 3:19-23), and the Law having served its purpose to prepare the way for the Messiah, God would fulfill His promise to Jeremiah and take away the Law of Moses, that dividing wall, with the death of Jesus of Nazareth. Through the shedding of the blood of Jesus the Old Covenant with all its articles and ordinances was removed from the scene. The Jews no longer have to obey it because it had done its job! Jesus, satisfying the Law's demand by His perfect life under that system, then "took it out of the way" by His sacrificial death, thus establishing the New Covenant or New Will by which we are all sanctified when we obey it (Heb. 10:8-9; Col. 2:14-15).

In the removing of the Law of Moses Jesus also took with it the Jew's obligation to obey it and the Gentile's obligation to obey the Patriarchal Law (Eph. 2:14-16). In accomplishing this He has thus provided freedom for Christians from the Law of Moses (Gal. 5:1).

In practical terms this means that Christians are under no obligation to refrain from eating certain foods because of a religious law. Christians are under no obligation to circumcise their male newborns. Christians are under no obligation to obey the Ten Commandments as a system of salvation. Christians are under no obligation to make distinction between flesh. Christians are under no obligation to make a yearly journey to Jerusalem. Christians are under no obligation to follow the pattern of government of the Jews. Christians are under no obligation to the Law of Moses at all! (Col. 2:14; Eph. 2:13-16; 2 Cor. 3:7-17; 10:9-10; Gal/ 2:21; 3:24-25). The Christian is free from the "ministration of death" (2 Cor. 3:7) and the physical tabernacle and its worship (Heb. 9:1). He, by virtue of what Jesus did on Calvary and His obedience to the gospel can have life, peace, and reconciliation.

All Men are Obligated to Obey The New Testament

Since it is the case that Christ has taken the Law of Moses out of the way (Col. 2:14-16; Eph. 2:13-16), that He has all authority over all flesh (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 17:2), and that He instituted a New Covenant with death and shedding His blood (Heb.

9:13-14; 10:14). It is therefore valid to affirm that all men are obligated to obey only the New Covenant (Mk. 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16).

It is sad indeed that men today would still pervert the Gospel of Christ and teach a false message that men must obey the Law of Moses, a dead law, and a law that cannot nor never could give life, but will bring death (Gal. 3:21).

"I Believe God Wants Me to be Happy"

By Todd Clippard

EARLIER this year I was in a conversation with a fellow Christian who made the following statement, "I believe God wants me to be happy." It was the second time I remember hearing those exact words coming from a fellow Christian, and the circumstances and topic of discussion were exactly the same—both men were divorced for reasons other than fornication and looking for an "out" from Matthew 19:9 so they could remarry.

Where did anyone ever get the idea that our personal happiness is God's greatest desire? While sermonizing not too long ago, I made mention of evangelical sensation Joel Osteen and his brazen refusal to speak about sin, repentance and hell. Many have rightfully identified him as nothing but a "feel good" preacher. No one ever leaves one of his services with any inclination that they need to repent or amend their ways. Tragically, this attitude toward preaching and so-called Christian living has found its way into the hearts and lives of Christians. But think about the ramifications of this type of thinking.

Such thinking says God is willing to overlook and

worse still, condone sin for the sake of one's personal happiness. But God is of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look upon wickedness (Habakkuk 1:13). Is God so desirous of your happiness that He will condone adultery? How then will "for whosoever shall divorce his wife, EXCEPT it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery" (Matthew 19:9), be reconciled with "know ye not that the unrighteous shall NOT inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived! NEITHER FORNICATIONS, NOR ADULTERERS shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). These two passages can never be reconciled under the influence of this type of thinking. Speaking of heaven, John wrote, "Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false" (Revelation 21:27).

But what other sins will God overlook in order to ensure our happiness? If God is willing to overlook sexual sins for the sake of my happiness, then He most certainly will overlook the drunkard and his love for the bottle. No doubt He will ignore the gambler whose high stakes poker game bring him much joy. Without question He will disregard the foul language of the man who finds much pleasure in regaling his co-workers with the latest jokes and off-color tales. Where will it end?

It ends with God's word as given to Saul: "Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken then the fat of rams..." (1 Samuel 15:22-23). More than our happiness, God desires our faithfulness. Jesus came to give us an abundant life, but that life is not one of guaranteed joy. The early church was persecuted and her members tormented and slain for their faithfulness (Acts 26:9-11). All such sacrifice was a needless waste had they only known they could deny the faith to ensure their happiness.

The Passing of A Wonderful Brother

A Great man has passed. At the age of 88 years, Brother James Odom of Abilene, Texas passed from this life into the next

on May 4th, 2010. He was not a great evangelist who held his audience spellbound with eloquent words, nor was he a politician, a wealthy philanthropist, or war hero—as the world views greatness.

Brother Odom was simply a kind, gentle, loving, and forgiving Christian who devoted his life to serving God. The lives of everyone who knew and worshipped with this beloved brother were enriched. Rest in peace beloved brother, while we see you in a robe of white, we know our hope is also your hope.

Paul & Tillie Griggs, Hawley, Texas

NOTE: We were saddened to hear the passing of Brother Odom who was laid to rest this past Monday. Teresa and I had the privilege of knowing him personally, as well as worshipping with him and receiving gifts of love from him for the work here in Dubuque; and we always appreciated his letters of encouragement. The Army of Christ will sorely miss this staunch soldier of the cross.

Adultery and Repentance

By Steve Higginbotham

ONE of the most tragic and consequential sins in which man can engage is adultery. It destroys families, lives, and within some people the hope of heaven. Because we live in a time when adultery and divorce are so prevalent, it becomes incumbent upon us to state the truth contained in God's Word about this sin and its consequences.

Let us suppose that a person divorces and remarries without the scriptural grounds of fornication (Matt. 19:9). Let us suppose that this person begins a new life with his new wife or husband. They build a wonderful relationship, are happy, and have three children. As time progresses, they desire to church.