

I Will Remember Their Sins No More!

By Pastor Susan Schmidt

Holiness is attained only through an unfolding experience with the grace of God which removes the barriers caused by sin.

Have you ever had a close friend, but talked critically about him to someone else? The next time you were together, did you notice something almost artificial about your relationship? You were not as open or as honest with him. Because of your sin, there was a small, but measurable distance between both of you. Though you may have been ashamed of what you did, if you stayed unrepentant, you actually started to avoid the one you hurt—if not socially, at least with your eyes and heart. You may have shared a world together beforehand, but now the interpenetration of personalities, the sense of being “at home” in one another’s soul, is gone. Unless there is repentance, the distance between you probably widened until the relationship itself is over. Although neither of you may understand why you drifted apart, the love you possessed died because you sinned and failed to repent.

In the same manner, that human relationships are sustained by openness and honesty, so it is also with our relationship with God. When we sin against Him, we unconsciously erect a barrier between heaven and ourselves. We may still go to church, but a sense of distance and artificiality emerges in our heart. Each of those defenses we have erected to keep God out ultimately walls us in, spiritually imprisoning us in our sins. These barriers degenerate into stronghold of demonic oppression. Eventually, our walls toward God imprison us outside the Divine Presence, trapping the soul in outer darkness. It is possible that our walls toward God are the very substance of which hell is made.

Yes, the love of God is such that He loves us enough not only to release us from our sins, but also from the negative effects our sin has had upon our fellowship with Him. Mercifully, He promises, “their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Heb. 10:17). Every time we ask for forgiveness, our relationship with Him becomes free and new again.

In one sweeping act of forgiveness—so complete that He promises not to remember what we did wrong—God has provided the eternal payment for each sin we contritely ask Him to forgive. He loves us so much that, while He continues to perfect our attitudes of heart, He also provides a means to keep our relationship with Him genuine and without barriers.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us (Eph 1:7-8).

What is redemption? Redemption is the “payment of debt or obligation.” There were notes, warrants held against us. We are all debtors to God, but Jesus satisfied the warrants held against us by His death on the cross.

And when you were dead in your transgressions—He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Col 2:13-14)

The moment you accepted Jesus into your heart, all the things you ever did wrong, every evil thought, every angry word, each of which deserved its own punishment, was stamped “Redeemed: Paid in Full” by our Father in Heaven. Jesus paid for them all with His blood. He is our Redeemer! He paid the price, not just for the sins we sincerely ask forgiveness for now! All our sins are forever forgiven and forgotten.

Hebrews 10:10 tells us that, “For by one offering He has perfected for all times those who are sanctified.” And again in Colossians we read, “For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—and although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach” (Col 1:19-22)

Continues next month with part two: “And the Lord said, “And I do not remember.”

I love you and so does God,

Susan