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Two Questions Related to THANKFULNESS

- 1. Have you ever experienced unthankfulness from someone you helped?**
- 2. Have you ever failed to be thankful enough to someone who helped you?**

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

-Paul indicates that unthankfulness characterizes the wicked.

--Romans 1:21 -- “... *when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*”

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

-Timothy shows that the wicked of the future shall be wickedly unthankful

--2 Timothy 3:1-4 -- This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;...).”**

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

-The Lord Jesus indicated that He abhors false thankfulness. Speaking of publican and pharisee, He said;

-- Luke 18:14 -- “...for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

OVERVIEW OF LESSON

- 1. Christ Redeems His People by His blood.**
- 2. However, Christians still sin.**
- 3. How does God Deal with you when you sin?**

1. Christ Redeems His People by His blood

-a. He suffered punishment at the hands of His Father to redeem His people

--1 Peter 2:24 -- Who his own self **bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

--2 Corinthians 5:21 -- “For he hath **made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”**

DOES THIS MAKE YOU THANKFUL?

1. Christ Redeems His People by His blood

-b. His people love and follow Him

--1 Corinthians 16:22 -- "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema [cursed] Maranatha."

--John 10:27 -- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

--Matthew 16:24 -- Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

1. Christ Redeems His People by His blood

-c. A person's failure to follow Christ is often betrayed by his or her tongue

--James 1:26 -- If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

1. Christ Redeems His People by His blood

-d. God knows His own but we sometimes can't differentiate saved from lost because Christians sometimes yield to sin.

2. However Christians Still Sin

-a. Some believe that true Christians will not sin.

--However, this is inconsistent with the fact that God “chastens” those he loves as “sons” when they sin.

---Hebrews 12:6-8 -- 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every **son** whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But **if ye be without chastisement, whereof ALL [sons] are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

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8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof ALL [sons] are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

CAUTION!!!

Sinching should NOT be a Christian's normal pursuit. According to this, a professing Christian whom God does not chastise is LOST!!!.

2. However Christians Still Sin

-a. Some believe that true Christians will not sin.

--The apostle Paul admitted being constantly troubled by the temptation to sin that his flesh produced. **Notice the present tense** Paul uses in describing this problem.

Romans 7:14-25 ¶ ...

14. **...I am** carnal, ...

15. ...what I would, **that do I not**; ... what I hate, **that do I**

17. **...it is** no more I that do it, but sin that **dwelleth** in me.

24. **O wretched man that I am!** who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 **I thank God** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. However Christians Still Sin

- b. Some believe Christians can lose their salvation by sinning. Hebrews 6:4-6 is often cited --**Hebrews 6:4-6** 4. -- For it is impossible for those who were **once enlightened**, and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers of the Holy Ghost**, 5 And have **tasted the good word of God**, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

2. However Christians Still Sin

-b. Some believe Christians can lose their salvation by sinning. Hebrews 6:4-6 is often cited

--Scripture, denies that a truly saved person can be lost.

---Those who are saved **HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**. This means it can't end.

----**John 10:27-30 -- 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one.**

2. However Christians Still Sin

-b. Some believe Christians can lose their salvation by sinning.

--More scriptures emphasizing true believer's security

---1 John 1:7-10 -- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

--The apostle John wrote to his children in the faith (Christians) that Jesus Christ is still the advocate of saved people even if they sin. Those sins were placed on His account as He died on the cross.

---1 John 2:1 -- My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

3. How does God Deal with you when you sin?

(Like King David)

OR

(Like King Saul)

-Does He cause you to repent like David and desire to never sin that way again?

--Psalm 51:1-4 -- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

OR

-Does He allow you to convince yourself that your sin wasn't really so bad?

3. How does God Deal with you when you sin?

ARE YOU LIKE DAVID?

Acts 13:22-23 --Though David sinned many times, God described him as **“a man after mine own heart”**

1 Samuel 17:26 – David fought Goliath to display the honor of God.

2 Samuel 12:13 – When confronted about his sin with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah the Hitite David admitted his sinfulness saying: **“I have sinned against the LORD.”**

2 Samuel 24:1 – After wrongfully numbering the people of Israel David confessed: **“I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.”**

OR

3. How does God Deal with you when you sin?

ARE YOU LIKE SAUL?

1 Samuel 15:3 -- God had told Saul to destroy **EVERYTHING** pertaining to the Amalekites including their population, their belongings, and their animals

However: Saul did an incomplete job but still claimed to have obeyed the Lord” Samuel called him on it and Saul made excuses

1 Samuel 12:13-15 – 13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, **Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.** **14** And Samuel said, **What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?** **15** And Saul said, **They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.**

SUMMARY

- Nothing in the Universe can cancel the eternal salvation and forgiveness that Christ has purchased for his people
- The general direction of life for saved people is to love & follow Christ
- However, though the penalty of sin has been cleared from a Christian's account, sinful desires are still present in the flesh and Christians yield to them from time to time. Such yielding always generates sorrow and correction by the Lord.
- The Lord's correction elicits repentance from the true Christian.
- For all of these things the Christian experiences great thankfulness. Those who don't aren't Christians.
- A person who is not chastised when he or she sins is a false professor.
- This distinguishing mark becomes the criteria to be evaluated when situations requiring discipline arise

Closing Comment

NOTE: Items associated with this lesson can be obtained at the link below

<http://lightingdarkness.com/thanksgiving/>