

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

A NEW BEGINNING

RLJ-1290

JOHN S. TORELL

MAY 15, 2011

PART 1: FORGIVENESS

One of my favorite things is to walk for miles along the beach and look at the Pacific Ocean with my wife. It is a particularly beautiful sight in northern California where there are huge rock formations sticking out of the water. However, when I turn away and look at the beach, it is often littered with driftwood that has been thrown up by waves when the tide is high.

In the spiritual world I see thousands of battered Christians who have been chewed up by events in their lives, tossed on the sea of life and been thrown on a beach like debris. The Lord has a message for those of you who are laying there wounded, exhausted and without hope. There is a new beginning and it can begin today!

WHO DOES GOD FORGIVE?

The Bible tells us that angels and humans are the only kinds of eternal and moral creatures God has created.

Angels were created with the freedom to serve God or go their own way. Lucifer chose the latter. **Ezekiel 28:12-18**

Not only did Lucifer rebel against God, he also enticed one third of the angels to join him in the rebellion. **Revelation 12:3-4, 7-10**

God had no redemption plan for the angels; they were condemned to the Lake of Fire and eternal punishment once they sinned. **Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10**

There was no redemption plan for the angels once made they made the choice to sin. God never had any forgiveness for angels and there will be no forgiveness in the future for the fallen angels.

As soon as Adam and Eve had sinned, God informed them of the redemption plan. **Genesis 3:8-15**

God repeated His promise of redemption to Abraham. **Genesis 12:1-3; 22:16-18**

The sign of redemption was a sacrifice that began with Adam and Eve being clothed with the skins from an animal to the ritual set up by God and given to Moses. **Exodus 12:1-13**

Regular sacrifices took place in the mobile tabernacle and later in the temple at Jerusalem. The apostle Paul explained it to us. **Hebrews 9:1-9**

The final sacrifice was Jesus. **verses 10-14**



Man could not atone for his own sins, so God took the initiative and paid for the sins through Christ and reconciled man by Himself!
2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Colossians 1:12-20

WHY DOES GOD FORGIVE MANKIND?

God forgives mankind because of LOVE! **John 3:16-21**

But the Bible doesn't tell why God loves people.

Does not God love the angels He created? The only answer we have in the Bible is that they are His servants. **Hebrews 1:1-14**

CAN YOU ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS?

Some people are too proud to accept God's love and forgiveness while others are so beat down by the Devil that they don't feel they deserve to be forgiven. Hate, anger, resentment, unforgiveness and jealousy are just a few of the things that hinder many from receiving God's love.

1. Some believe that man doesn't deserve to be forgiven. **Romans 5:1-11**
2. Some believe that man must do good works to be forgiven. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

It takes an act of faith, gratitude and joy to come to God the Father and accept the sacrifice of His Son on the cross, and to humbly thank God for saving your soul and giving you eternal life in heaven! **Psalms 103:1-13**

To do otherwise is to insult God's goodness and call Him a liar! **Romans 1:16-22**

Renounce your pride, humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and receive the great love that God has for you! **James 4:6-10; Psalm 147:1-2**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?

Please see the series, "[How Can I Know God Has Forgiven Me?](#)" for an in-depth study of forgiveness. Many Christians are not secure in their salvation, while others are not sure that God has forgiven all their past sins, and there are still others who believe that God might have forgiven them but they must suffer in sickness and pay for their sinful lifestyle prior to Christ. Simply put, there are many Christians struggling in the mire of Satan's guilt and deceit who don't really know what the Bible says about God's forgiveness when they repent.