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WHEN DOES THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS TAKE PLACE?

This is a point of controversy in the religious world, but not in the Bible. The Bible is too clear on this point to be misunderstood. First of all understand that it is the blood of Jesus and the blood of Jesus only that washes away a person's sins. Revelations 1:5 says **"...Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."** The question is when does the blood of Jesus wash away a person's sins? The answer is found in Acts 22:16 where we read the following: **"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."** Since we are **"baptized into the death of Christ"** according to Romans 6:3-5, and it is in the death of Christ that Jesus shed His blood, then this makes perfect sense. According to Acts 2:38, baptism is **"for the remission of sins."** All of this means that the forgiveness of sins does not come at the point of one's believing in Jesus. If this were the case, then why did not Paul receive the forgiveness of sins when he believed in Jesus on the road to Damascus? (Acts 9:1-18/Acts 22:1-16) After a person becomes a Christian and then sins, he must **"repent of those sins and pray for forgiveness"** in order to have those sins forgiven by the blood of Jesus. This is the teaching of Acts 8:22-25 and 1st John 1:7-9. The shedding of the blood of Jesus also made it possible for those people living before the New Testament came into existence to have their sins forgiven as well. (Hebrews 9:15,22-28/Hebrews 10:1-14)

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Rehoboam is the king who had 88 children. He had 18 wives and 60 concubines. He had 28 sons and 60 daughters. (2 Chronicles 11:21)

The Lord's church was established upon the 1st day of the week. We can determine this by looking at Leviticus 23:15-16 and learning that the Feast of Pentecost took place 49 days plus one after the Passover. That would put the Feast of Pentecost on the 1st day of the week.

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What king of Judah was stricken with leprosy by God? (Why did God do this?)

What two men took an active part in the burial of Jesus? (Who apparently was the first person to see Jesus after He was raised from the dead?)

GOD'S COUNSEL ON REARING CHILDREN!

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." (Proverbs 19:18)

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Proverbs 13:24)

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Proverbs 29:15)

"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." (Colossians 3:21)

The wisdom of God far excels the wisdom of men; why not give God's wisdom a try?

MUST GOD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!

The answer to this question is absolutely **YES!** God must be taken seriously; He must be taken at His word! The examples given throughout the Bible prove this very point. For example, in the Ten Commandments God gave Israel the command not to work on the Sabbath day. (Exodus 20:8-11) When a man was found working on the Sabbath day he was put to death. (Numbers 15:32-36) Israel understood that God must be taken seriously; that He meant just what He said and He said what He meant. Another example teaches the same lesson: Moses was told by God to speak to the rock and He would bring forth water for Israel. When Moses struck the rock instead, God still brought forth water for Israel, but Moses because of his disobedience to God, was not allowed to enter the promise land on earth. (Numbers 20:1-13/Deuteronomy 34:1-7) Moses learned the hard way that God meant just what He said; that He must be taken seriously! There are many more examples just like this that reinforce this important Bible truth.

When we come to the New Testament this same principle of taking God at His word applies as well. Galatians 6:7-8 says the following: ***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."*** Furthermore we read in Colossians 3:17 the following: ***"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."*** We do not have to wait until the Judgment Day to find out that God must be taken seriously. The Bible makes this point in such a way that it simply cannot be misunderstood! If we don't take Christ at His word and do only those things He has authorized us to do, and in the way He wants them done, we will suffer the consequences of our disobedience just as Moses did. Only this time we will not be allowed to enter the heavenly promise land! (John 5:28-29)

Let us make sure that we always take God seriously; our eternal destiny is hanging in the balance. God always say what He means and He means what He says! When you stop and think about it, this makes matters pretty simple. Just do what God says and God will be pleased with us. 1st Samuel 15 is one more example that makes this point very clear!