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The Bible and Forgiveness of Sins!

By Mark Legendre

There seems to be some question in the religious world as to when a person's sins are actually forgiven. Let's emphasize the fact that **"nothing can wash away our sins, but the blood of Jesus!"** Revelation 1:5 says **"... unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own Blood."** But the question remains: **"When does the blood of Jesus wash away our sins?"** The Bible clearly answers this question. Acts 22:16 says **"And now why tarriest thou: arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."** The connection between baptism and the blood of Jesus is the **"death of Christ."** Romans 6:3-4 informs us that we are "baptized into the death of Christ." It is therefore when we are **"baptized into the death of Christ where His blood was shed, that our sins are washed away by His blood,"** This is the point in time when a person becomes a Christian. (Galations 3:26-27)

When we as Christians sin, it once again takes the **"blood of Jesus to cleanse us from our sins."** 1 John 1:7-9 and Acts 8:22-25 make this very clear. It doesn't happen automatically as some people suggest, but when we **"repent, confess and pray to God, our sins are washed away by Jesus' blood."**

"This and That!"

Answers To Last Month's Bible Questions

The name of the king who had 88 children is Rehoboam. He had 60 daughters and 28 sons. (2 Chronicles 11:21)

The name of the king who witnessed the execution of his sons is Zedekiah. He then had his own eyes put out and was carried to Babylon as a prisoner. (2 Kings 25:7)

Questions For Next Month

1. What Old Testament prophet was swallowed up by a great fish and how long was he inside that fish? (What new Testament event is a parallel to this?)
2. What Old Testament king made a decree for the Jews to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity? (His spirit had been stirred up God to do this.)

Your Eternal Destiny!

By Mark Legendre

The Bible speaks of only **"two possible eternal destinies that people will receive; Heaven or Hell."** Heaven is a **"prepared place for prepared people;"** Hell is a **"prepared place for unprepared people."** These facts can be seen in the Parable of the Ten Virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13. Five of the virgins were ready when the bridegroom returned; and the other five were unprepared. The bridegroom in this story is Jesus and the wedding spoken of here is His 2nd coming. The five **"unprepared virgins missed out on the wedding because they were not ready."** In other words, **"they missed out on Heaven because they were not ready when Jesus came back."**

WILL YOU BE READY WHEN JESUS RETURNS? Only time will tell.

Lawful and Unlawful Marriages!

By mark Legendre

In Mark 6:16-29 we read the story of the execution of John the Baptist. He was put to death by Herod the king because John had spoken out against the marriage of Herod to his brother Philip's wife Herodias. Mark 6:18 says **"For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife."** This very clearly lets us know that there are **"lawful marriages and there are unlawful marriages"** in God's eyes. Our society says all marriages are acceptable including some states now allowing homosexual marriages. **BUT THE BIBLE SAYS OTHERWISE!**

In 1st Corinthians 7:2, Paul says the following **"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband,"** This tells us that **"same sex marriages are unlawful"** because marriage is to be between **"1 man and 1 woman!"**

In Matthew 19:3-12, Jesus was asked a question by the Pharisees: **"Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"** Jesus answers this question by going back to the beginning of the marriage relationship with Adam and Eve. He says that **"what God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."** Jesus then says that the **"only exception to this rule is in the case of fornication"**, in which case the **"guilty party can then remarry and be in a lawful relationship, providing they marry someone who also has the right to get married according to God's laws."**

And so it is easy to see that **"not all marriages are acceptable to God."** Only those that meet the requirements that are laid down in the word of God find acceptance with God. Just because our society may say something is all right doesn't make it all right. In Acts 5:29, Peter said that **"we ought to obey God rather than man."**