



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

**Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053**

## God's Two Laws of Pardon

Rod Rutherford

By definition, sin is "lawlessness." (1 John 3:4). All accountable human beings are guilty of sin. The apostle Paul wrote: "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Even those who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ and have been forgiven of their past sins are capable of sinning again. The apostle John warned: "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

While forgiveness of sin is freely given by our gracious heavenly Father, it is conditional, both for the alien sinner and for the erring child of God. The conditions are not the same for both, but must be complied with in both cases if pardon is to take place.

When our Lord gave the Great Commission to His disciples, He taught them to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15,16). In Luke's account of the Commission, the Saviour stated that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).

In the book of Acts, we read of the gospel being preached, the terms of pardon plainly given, and several cases of conversion are recorded. In the eighth chapter of Acts, there is

an account of conversion which illustrates God's two laws of pardon, one for the alien sinner and the other for the erring child of God. Philip, the evangelist, had gone to Samaria to preach the gospel. God confirmed his preaching by the miracles which Philip did (Hebrews 2:3,4). The Samaritans who had formerly followed Simon, a sorcerer, now recognized true miracles and gave heed to Philip's preaching. The result was "...when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done" (Acts 8:5-12).

The apostles in Jerusalem heard of the conversion of the Samaritans and sent Peter and John to Samaria to confer the miraculous gifts of the Spirit to the believers. "And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 8:18,19). Simon, along with the other Samaritans, had been pardoned of his past sins when he heard the gospel, believed, and was baptized (Acts 8:12,13). But now this once pardoned man had sinned again. What must he do to be pardoned? Peter told him to "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (Acts 8:22).

Simon still believed in Jesus Christ and had already been baptized into Him (Galatians 3:26,27). He did not need to be baptized again. He did, however, need to repent of his sin and ask the Lord's forgiveness. Asking the Lord for forgiveness involved the confession of his sin to God: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Thus, we see in the case of Simon the sorcerer God's two laws of pardon in effect. When Simon was an alien sinner, he needed to believe and be baptized in order to be pardoned. But when Simon, the child of God sinned, he was told to "Repent and pray."

All people outside of Christ have sinned. They must comply with the conditions of God's pattern to be saved. This requires faith in Jesus Christ and baptism for the remission of sins. Once this has been done, one is a child of God. If he then sins, he can be pardoned for his sin if he will repent of it and confess it seeking God's forgiveness.

— Truth for the World tract



# Test, Hold, Release...

Jack H. Williams

Each of us is faced daily with many choices in our lives. They can pertain to our actions, speech, companions, clothing, or a multitude of other things. Many people face these choices with little consideration, having a “just go for it” attitude and seeing if it will work out or not. But Christians realize the choices we make are much more important than that. God tells us that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). Jesus teaches us our works are to be the “light” that will point others to God (Matthew 5:16). As such our choices through each day must be approached in a different light and with greater importance than those in the world do. In 1 Thessalonians the apostle gives us some insight into the means we can use to make our daily decisions when we are told that God expects us to “Prove all thing; hold fast to that which is good” and “abstain from all appearance of evil” (5:21-22). We have here a threefold method to make godly decisions:

“**Prove**” the choice before us. This means we will test or verify what is before us. We will look and see what the Word God has given since it is to be our standard in all things (Colossians 3:17) and will be the standard of our judgment (John 12:48).

“**Hold**” to the things which are good, the things which concur with God’s teachings. Jesus teaches us that to be His disciple we must “continue” in His teachings (John 8:31).

“**Abstain**” from “all appearance of evil.” While the world seeks to condone many things God calls evil, God expects His children to avoid completely every form of evil. Thankfully we know too that if we do sin, our gracious God has made possible the forgiveness of sins if we will humble ourselves and repent (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9).

While this sort of daily living may not be easy (and God never said it was!), the child of God will realize the importance of his decisions and realize that heaven is worth it all!

**“Prove all things;  
hold fast that which is good.  
Abstain from all appearance of evil.”  
— 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**



# Observations and Concerns

June 28, 2023

**Welcome Visitors!** We are so thankful you decided to visit with us today.

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

**Expression of Gratitude:** We are thankful for the many hours of work on the side door of the auditorium — drying carpets and walls as well as repairs.

**Summer Series** — The speaker this evening is **Paul Praschnik**. His topic Is “**Blessed Are They Whose Iniquities Are Forgiven**” (Romans 4:7).

The **men’s business meeting** is this coming Sunday evening (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) after services.

We honor and give special recognition to **Dan and Marcella Dennis** who are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Gary McNatt** who passed away last week. He and his wife, Margie, are friends of the Carmonas.

## Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Sherry Carmona** had knee surgery and is recovering at home.
- ▶ **Shawn Smith**, son of Vance and Darla Smith, suffered a heart attack and is recovering at home.

July Anniversaries and Birthdays: Anniversaries: July 2 – **Chuck & Jody Northrop**; July 26 – **Dan & Marcella Dennis**; Birthdays: July 10 – **Joyce Cash**.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, June 28	Sunday, July 2 AM	Sunday, July 2 PM
Sundays			
Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM			
Song Leader	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Worship . . . . . 10:30 AM			
Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Doyle Jackson	Paul Praschnik
Worship . . . . . 5:00 PM			
Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson
Wednesdays			
Lord’s Supper		Russ Earl	
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM			
Lesson	Paul Praschnik	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org			
Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Paul Praschnik	Chris Nelson