

NOT AFTER OUR SINS

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BAPTIST HOUR

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Scripture: Psalm 103:10

The Psalm we have read is one of the most blessed in the Bible. It has warmed the hearts of God's people across the centuries. Today it is just as precious as it was when it was written. Each verse rises in praise to God. It is like going up a mountain trail. Suddenly we round a bend and a panorama of indescribable beauty rolls out before us.

If we should choose a song to open the morning or a hymn to close the day, nothing could be more appropriate than, "He hath not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us after our iniquities."

When we have labored at a hard task and the favor of God has rested upon our efforts, we do well to say this verse.

When our homes are blessed and our sons and daughters stand in the beauty and strength of youth filling all about them with joy and love, we do well to remember it.

And when we come at the end of life's day to lay aside earthly things and enter into the eternal home he has prepared, our hearts will say, "He hath not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us after our iniquities."

We have, indeed, dealt poorly with God. We have sinned.

SIN TOUCHES ALL

It is clearly indicated in the scriptures that every life has been touched by sin. Only the life of Jesus Christ stands out radiant and triumphant.

We read of the men of old, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets, the Apostles, and we find that every one had sin in his life.

We look about us in the world of our day, and we see sin on every hand. If one should take any week, the events of which are recorded in the newspaper and make a record of the crimes related in the press, he would be amazed at the end of the week by the terrible story of iniquity which had been accumulated.

Most of the sin in human life never reaches the pages of the newspapers. Every life is touched in some way by sin.

Selfishness, pride, and unforgiving spirit, the lust of the flesh, and weaknesses of all kinds afflict human beings. We look within our own hearts and know that we have sinned. Who can say, "I have no sin. My life is spotless." We are honest when we say, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

We must not regard sin as a light matter, because God will ultimately call all sin into judgment. The scriptures throw light upon the wrath of God. As we look at great historic events, we can only understand them in light of God's dealing with a sinful world. The flood, the tower of Babel, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the judgment upon Egypt, the fall of Jerusalem—all of this speaks the terrible reality of judgment upon man's sin.

Jesus said much about judgment. He spoke about the eternal loss that comes to the soul when man lives and dies without God. No man can question the fact that Jesus clearly taught that man comes into judgment for his sin. Paul said, "We must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may give account for the things done in the body whether it be good or bad." The scriptures say, "It is appointed unto man once to die and after death the judgment." We are told in the book of Hebrews, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The sinner stands before the law of God and that law says he must die for his sins. Regardless of the way he appears to go, for the moment free, he must remember ultimately he will be called into judgment.

A WAY OF GRACE

God has provided a way of grace. Law knows nothing of forgiveness. Law has no way to release a sinner except by demanding of him full punishment for his sin.

God is redemptive in nature. He is full of love and grace. Man does not deserve his favor, but because of the character of God he reaches out toward man seeking

a way whereby his blessing can be extended unto him.

The scriptures say about God, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways." The mind of man could not have conceived of a way of redemption. Only a God of grace could think of the way redemption is provided.

God's grace provides for the redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ our Saviour. God sent his own Son to die for our sins. He came as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. God sent him forth as a propitiation for our sins.

The only way God's mercy can come to any sinner is upon the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Christ in his death on the cross suffered for every man. He died the just for the unjust. It is as God looks upon the death of his own Son for man's sin, he is thereby in position to extend mercy to everyone who casts himself by faith upon this provision God has made.

All of God's judgment for sin is poured out on Christ. It is for this reason that God can in full consistency with his own character forgive the sinner.

It is essential that the sinner receive and trust in the provision which God has made through Jesus Christ our Saviour. When that trust in Christ is a reality full salvation comes to be experienced. Sins are forgiven and we become children of God. He removes our sin from us as far as the east is from the west.

HE SEEKS US

Not only has God provided a way of redemption, but he seeks to bring us to accept his provision. He surrounds us with tender providences, loving friends, and praying loved ones help us to the Lord.

Whatever health, strength, or prosperity you have today is intended to be God's message to you to turn from your sin and trust him as your Saviour.

It is lamentable that many a person who receives great favors from God in health, talent, and material prosperity lets those favors remove him from God in place of repenting of sin and drawing near to God with thanksgiving and dedication. He turns himself away and sets his mind upon the material, so that his life is hindered in place of helped.

HE WARNS US

Not only does God surround us with tender mercies, but warns us of our sin. He rebukes us. As we read the Bible we find the truth is told about our sin. As we hear the gospel preached, we are faithfully told that the wages of sin is death. The church stands to bear its testimony to all men that Christ alone is able to save, and that there are two ways, the way of life and the way of death, and each man must decide for himself.

Those who live where the gospel is constantly preached are unable to come at the end of the road and say, "We did not know. Nobody ever warned us," because God has warned us in the preaching of his Word and in the reading of the Bible.

All over America there are millions of people who ought to turn to Jesus Christ in simple trust as Saviour and Lord. Each has his own point of view and excuse for holding back from Christ, but those points of view and excuses will melt away at the judgment and will have no meaning whatsoever. The highest wisdom for any man or woman is to recognize his own sin and turn to Jesus Christ in simple faith for eternal salvation.

This sermon leaflet is free. If, however, you wish to help defray the cost of printing, send your contribution to: THE BAPTIST HOUR, P. O. Box 12157, Fort Worth 16, Texas.

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