

## POINT OF PARDON

### Int.

1. Aim: To show when our sins are actually pardoned as an alien sinner or an erring Christian.
2. The word Pardon is used several times:
  - a. I Sam. 15:24-25 "...pardon my sin..."
  - b. Ps. 25:11 "For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great."
3. Definition = "To forgive, Excuse without requiring a penalty, to remit when a penalty is due for an admitted offense." Pass over
4. "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake." I Jn. 2:12
5. Just when are our sins forgiven?
  - a. Many answers
  - b. Answer for the sinner and the Saint
  - c. Answer about the point of pardon for an erring Christian.

### Discussion

#### I. WHAT IS THE POINT OF PARDON FOR THE SINNER?

- A. Baptism is involved with the pardon of the Sinner. But there are differences of opinion as to when. Is it...
  1. Before baptism
  2. After baptism
  3. At Baptism.

## B. Is Salvation for the sinner before baptism?

### 1. Not by works

- a. Eph. 2:8-9 -- not works lest we should boast.
- b. Jas. 2:24 - justified by works, but the right kind. Works of faith.

### 2. Not by faith only

- a. Heb. 11:6 - without faith it is impossible to please
- b. Jn. 3:16 - whosoever believeth should not perish.... he says nothing about "faith only"
- c. Jas. 2:19 - the devils believed and trembled
- d. Jn. 12:42-43 - some of the rulers believed but they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

### 3. Not by Repentance only

- a. Acts 17:30 - all men commanded to repent.
- b. Lk. 24:47 - repentance and remission of sins preached.
- c. Nothing said about repentance "ALONE"

### 4. Not through Confession only

- a. Mt. 10:32 - must confess Him to be confessed -- saved
- b. Rm. 10:10 - confession is unto salvation
- c. It does not say "confession alone"

## C. After Baptism?

1. Not taught specifically
2. But the ones who practice infant 'baptism' [sprinkling] believe this. Baby baptism
  - Sprinkling is not baptism - Burial - Col. 2:12
3. When the baby is grown he is to 'accept Christ'. This is salvation after what they call baptism.

## D. At baptism - yes - the point of pardon takes place at baptism.

1. Gal. 3:27 - put on Christ through baptism
2. Rm. 6:3-4 -- baptized into his death
3. I Pet. 3:21 - baptism saves
4. Acts 2:38 - baptism is for remission of sins.
5. Acts 22:16 - baptism is to wash away sins.
  - a. But there is nothing said about baptism alone.
  - b. The point of pardon is in the act of baptism -- but only if the other Points have been covered and obeyed.

## E. When these past sins are pardoned they will never be remembered again. Heb. 8:12

"...and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

## F. Sinners become Saints

1. Col. 1:2
2. Phil. 1:1
3. The Greek word for saint means - Separated from sin, and therefore consecrated to God

## **II. A CHRISTIAN CAN FALL**

- A. Some teach "once saved always saved", or "once in grace always in grace".
- B. The Bible teaches that we can fall:
  1. I Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."
  2. I Jn. 2:1 NKJV "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."
  3. Jas. 5:19-20 Brethren - err from truth - converteth - save a soul from death
- C. What is the point of pardon for this erring Christian?

## **III. WHEN DOES THE ERRING CHRISTIAN HAVE PARDON OF HIS SINS?**

- A. Some act as if  $S + T = F$  Sin + Time = forgiveness
  1. They commit a sin -- then after a few weeks, months, or even years they act as if the sin has been forgiven.
  2. May sin in one State and then go to another. Place membership with another congregation. But never repent of their sins.
  3. Forget that God knows about all people in all places at all times.
  4. Passage of time does not bring forgiveness - a day or a year or many years!
- B. The Bible way:  $S + R + C + P = F$ 
  1. Sin, Repent, Confess, and Pray = Forgiveness
  2. Acts 8:22 "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

3. In I Jn. 1:9 we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

C. When a Christian sins he must not be too proud to Repent, or too stubborn to Confess his sins, or too independent to Pray to God.

1. He must admit he has sinned, confess it, and then pray for forgiveness.

2. The formula is  $S + R + C + P = F$  --- Sin + Repentance + Confession + Prayer = forgiveness.

3. Acts 8:18-24 - example of Simon

a. Peter did not tell Simon - Take a low profile in the church for a few months, then come on back and act as if nothing ever happened, and everything will be all right.

b. Simon had sinned - he was told to repent and pray - to be forgiven

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The point of pardon/forgiveness is important

a. To change from a sinner to a saint one must obey the gospel.

b. The Christian must watch lest ye fall - if he does he can return and receive forgiveness.

2. Sinner - Baptism is the final point of pardon. Must be preceded by Faith, repentance, and confession.

3. Erring Christian - prayer is the final point of pardon. Must be preceded by repentance and confession of sins.

4. Have you been pardoned? Are you ready?

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