

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

The other day while I was driving, I saw a privately owned lake with a large sign, “*NO FISHING*”! My mind thought of Micah 7:18-19, where Micah reflects on the greatness of God, knowing our sins are cast into the depths of the sea. When God forgives, it is permanent! That means, “*No fishing*”! Why do so many live in fear, guilt and regrets? Many people constantly live in the guilt and fear that somehow, someway, their sins, those hidden sins no one knows, aren’t forgiven in Jesus. Some think it’s because people can’t forgive themselves. No, mankind doesn’t have the capability to forgive themselves. Only God, through Christ can forgive! The problem lays in not believing God can and has forgiven!

We sing a song with these words: “*My sin – Oh, the bliss of this glorious tho’t – my sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*” What we sing and what we believe sometimes aren’t the same. Only the forgiven sing with genuine praise! Are these simply words of a song, or are they our words, our adoration “*giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father*” (Eph. 5:20)?

God forgives completely! There are no hidden sins that will be brought forth on that awesome Day that will threaten our relationship with God. There are no sins, black as coal, gross or otherwise that the Lord will mull over to use against you. He cleanses from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).

Not only does God forgive completely, He forgives permanently! Take some time and read Jeremiah 31, which the Hebrew writer quotes in Hebrews 8 and 10.

God does chastise people for sins, but He won’t keep bringing them up. Others might remind us of our sinfulness, but not God. This should be the most important thing in our lives and move us toward Him, running with all our might. It doesn’t really matter what others think, not even what we think! There is but one Lord and He offered us graciously His gift of complete and permanent forgiveness. To those who hold to their sins, unwilling to confess and repent, unwilling to move, their sins will be remembered, brought up before them. But to the penitent, humble of heart, who have been baptized into His holy name, confessing when they fail, their sins are removed forever.

Why won’t people grasp hold of the grace offered? Why do people live in their own guilt and wallow in their failure? It’s posted; “*No Fishing*” and that should remind us our sins have been cast into the depths of the sea. Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe! Think about it!!!

Brent