

## God Blots Out Our Sin

Isaiah 43:25 & 26: "I, even I, am He Who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Remind Me; let us plead together. Set forth your case so that you may be justified."

When the Lord uses the word 'blot' He means total annihilation. When He blots out our sins, our sins, transgressions and iniquities are totally annihilated and no longer exist. God said, "I have blotted out like a thick cloud your transgressions, and like a cloud your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you" (Isaiah 44:22). To receive God's forgiveness we first need to repent and turn from our sin, then ask forgiveness, then the Lord blots our sin out. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness (Mark 1:4; Acts 2:38).

Once we have repented and are forgiven then the blessings from the Lord will flow. Jesus bore all of our iniquities and our guilt (Isaiah 53:11 & 12). Here are some very encouraging and exciting verses that remind us that once our sins are forgiven, God is pleased ... 'Blessed is the person whose transgression (disobedience) is forgiven; whose sin is covered. Blessed is the person to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit' (Psalm 32:1 & 2). 'The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are open to their cry ... When the righteous cry for help the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves those who have a crushed spirit. Many evils afflict the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all ... The Lord redeems the soul of His servants and none of those who seek refuge in Him will be condemned' (Psalm 34:15 to 22). 'Behold, your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven' (Isaiah 6:7). 'I will forgive your iniquity, and I will remember your sin no more' (Jeremiah 31:34). "Though I have afflicted you (for sin), I will afflict you no more" (Nahum 1:12).

'Sing, O Daughter of Zion; Rejoice with all your heart for the Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, even the Lord Himself, is in the midst of you; you shall not fear evil any more. Fear not. Do not let your hands be listless. The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One Who saves! He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest in His love (that is He will make no mention of past sins); He will exult over you with singing' (Zephaniah 3:14 to 17).

We can see in these verses, the Lord never brings up the past. Once we are forgiven, our sins are blotted out and the Lord chooses not to remember them. He covers our sins with the blood of Jesus and we will not have to give an account of forgiven sins on Judgement Day. 'Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the person who the Lord will not charge with sin' (Romans 4:7 & 8). 'We are justified through faith so let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Through Him we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in our hope of the glory of God ... God shows His love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Jesus the Messiah died for us. Now that we are justified by the blood of Jesus, we will be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the life and death of His Son ... so we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus, through Whom we have now received reconciliation' (Romans 5:1 to 11).

Although our sins are most definitely forgiven, sometimes our sin has consequences that remain; consequences we may have to live with. For example; if two people who are not married engage in a sexual union that produces a child, when the couple repent of their sin, they will still have a child to consider. If a person commits crime and is caught and imprisoned for their crime, if that person repents they still may have to serve out the sentence and may have a criminal history to deal with. On the other hand, when the repentance is genuine, very often the Lord makes a way for the former sinner to be released from prison. What is vitally important for our spiritual wellbeing, is the deep knowledge that we are truly forgiven and there is no sin that God will not forgive. All we have to do is repent, confess it to God and ask forgiveness. God already knows what we have done, so confessing our sin is not to let Him know what we have done, but to be sure we take full responsibility for our actions. 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9).

By having the understanding deep in our soul that we are freely and completely forgiven for every wrong we have ever done or said, at any time in our lives, gives us a smile that wells up from deep within us and bubbles up into grateful laughter and joy in the presence of our Lord. We can walk in absolute peace when we are assured He has blotted out all of our sins. 'And God's peace which transcends all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds in Jesus our Messiah' (Philippians 4:7).

Amen and God bless you.

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