



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 8, 2020

Heart to Heart...

The sign said, "*No Hunting or Fishing.*" It was a no trespassing zone. In Micah 7:18-19, we are made to reflect on the greatness of God knowing that our sins are cast into the depths of the sea. In Psalm 103:12 we are reminded that our sins are removed as far as the east is from the west. When God forgives, it is permanent! That means "*No Hunting or Fishing!*" It is a no trespassing zone! Too many in Christ live in the guilt of their past which leads to a fear that someday, their sins of the past will find their way back into their lives leading to condemnation. You hear the statements made that such people just need to forgive themselves. We don't have that capability. Only God, through Jesus Christ, can cleanse and forgive. It all comes down to faith in the Lord.

We sing a song to God 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 to the Lord and what we believe sometimes aren't the same. Only the forgiven can sing with a genuine faith of praise. Are we just singing a tune or words of faith and love? "*Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.*" (Ephesians 5:20)

God forgives permanently and completely! There are no hidden sins that will be brought forth on that great and glorious day when we stand with Jesus before the Father. The past sins we have confessed by faith have all been taken away, removed both from sight and memory of God. There are no sins the Lord will mull over to use against you. I am speaking to those of faith. "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" (1 John 1:9)

God forgives permanently! Read Jeremiah 31, which is quoted in Hebrews 8 and 10. God does chastise people for their sins but He won't bring them up if we have repented. Others might remind us but not God. This should be the most important part of our lives and move us to Him, running with all our might. It doesn't really matter what others say or think. There is but one Lord and He offered us graciously His gift of permanent forgiveness. To those who are stubborn,

unwilling to confess and repent, their sins will be remembered (Romans 2:5). There is nothing to forgive if we confess nothing. The penitent, humble of heart, those baptized into the name of Jesus for their forgiveness, their sins are removed...FOREVER!

It is posted: "*No Hunting or Fishing.*" We should not go about looking or pulling our sins that have been cleansed from the past back to the present. It is this thought that should remain with us in regard to our confessed sin: "*No trespassing!*" Think about it!!!

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