



“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 – October 31, 2021

To Know Christ...

What does it mean to be ... Forsaken? I am reminded of a gut-wrenching scene at children's homes and foster homes way too often, when parents who have been deemed unfit due to sin, forsake their own children. The parents have chosen sinful behaviors and forsake their very own biological children. Romans 1:31 uses the term “unloving”, it aptly describes this type of relationship. This is when parents no longer feel even the natural affection or love that should be instinctively present toward their child (or children). Parents like this have forsaken their children, turning from love toward their children to their own sinful desires & behaviors. Yes, some parents love sinful behaviors MORE than their own child. This is the story of many forsaken children. Forsaken means to turn from someone (or something) in order to turn toward someone else (or something else). It is painful to watch from the outside, but far more difficult for the child who endures unloving parents who have forsaken their own son or daughter.

Jesus understands being forsaken, yet for the opposite reason of the innocent orphaned child. The Father had to forsake His Son Jesus in order to redeem the sinful souls who faithfully appeal to the Savior. Jesus said it Himself, “**My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?**” [Mark 15:34] And after Jesus had died to pay His life's blood for our sins, He was not forsaken forever. Listen to the words of Peter in speaking of David's prophecy concerning Jesus, “**Because You will not abandon [forsake] My soul to Hades, nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.**” [Acts 2:27] The Greek word translated “abandon” here is the same as “forsaken” in Mark 15:34. God, the Father, had forsaken Jesus while He paid for our sins on the cross, but He would not abandon Jesus forever. He would not abandon Jesus' Soul to Hades, nor allow His physical body to undergo decay. Later Peter says that David was speaking of the resurrection of the Christ, and said, “**He was neither abandoned [forsaken] to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.**” [v31] Jesus was forsaken, but when the debt for our sins was paid in full, Jesus arose out of the tomb having overcome death for those who faithfully respond to the Savior. Then we are no longer forsaken by God because of our sin, but we are brought to life in Christ Jesus our Savior through baptism into Jesus' death.

Jesus was forsaken and raised so we will never have to be forsaken again. Listen to Hebrews 13:5, **“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”** Since we know His promises are certain and true, we walk faithfully with Him and are assured that God will never, ever, forsake us. He will never turn away to abandon the faithful in His Son, but if we have the love of money running our lives, the promise no longer remains. If we forsake our children for the love of money, then God will forsake us to the same measure as He did His Son on the cross. However, if we live in Christ with contentment toward monetary things, this we can confidently say, **“The Lord is My Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?”** [v6] Is this not the righteous response after the Lord adopted us as His own children through the death of Jesus (the forsaken) and His resurrection? No more fear, the Lord is my Helper!

- Carey Terry