



Q&A

27 June 2020

NOTES

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1. What does this mean? 'If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' (John 20:23).

1. Only God can forgive sins.
2. All our sins were paid for at the cross.
3. Only when we receive Jesus do we receive what He paid for – the forgiveness of our sins.
4. As the Father sent the Son so He is sending the disciples to proclaim the good news. By preaching the gospel we say to those who receive it that their sins are forgiven; to those who reject it we say their sins are retained.
5. The apostles, then, offered forgiveness to those who believed in Jesus. 'To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins' (Acts 10:43). 'Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses' (Acts 13:38-39).
6. Until a person believes in Christ they remain in Adam and are still in their sins. Jesus said to the Jews: '... if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.' (John 8:24). Sharing the gospel also includes telling people that if they reject Christ their sins are retained. 'He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him' (John 3:36).

2. If the past, present and future wrath of God was fallen on Christ at the cross, why was wrath of God revealed in the Old Testament? Is Romans 1:26 the wrath of God? If so, how can it be to the people if Christ paid it all?

The wrath of God displayed in the Old Testament is a testimony to the holiness of God and His determination to punish sin.

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There is a difference between God revealing His wrath and pouring out His wrath. Rom.1:26 is an example of God revealing His wrath so that people will see it for what it is, hate it, and turn to Him for salvation in this day of grace.

Both the wrath of God and the love of God are revealed in the Cross. 'In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sin' (1 John 4:10).

3. In the 'once saved always saved' statement, can we say that a man is saved forever even though he denies Christ after he got saved? How can we relate the above question with Hebrews 3:12-13? 'Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "today" lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin'

(Another person asked a similar question: 'Can you please explain to me what Hebrews 2:3 teaches with regards to salvation? Some people believe that if salvation can be neglected it is because there is a possibility it can be lost.' '*...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him*').

- Professors and possessors. 'They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him' (Tit.1:16)
- Parables of sower. The seed on stony ground died because it had no root. We are rooted in Christ.
- Parable of the wheat and tares. 'False brethren'.
- Some will have a 'form of godliness' but deny its power.

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4. It's my understanding that our past, present and future sins are forgiven. Why is it that in Mathew 6:12, Jesus commands us to forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors if they have been already forgiven?

Jesus was speaking before the cross. Everything changed at the cross. Now Paul teaches us, 'And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you' (Eph.4:32).

5. Once saved, always saved. The bible teaches us that there is an unpardonable sin which is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Would that person be saved anyways?

There is only one sin which cannot be forgiven. That is to reject Christ as Saviour. Jesus referred to as the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit because the Jews rejected Jesus, even when the Holy Spirit bore clear testimony to Him.

6. Ken preaches one can't lose his or her salvation. At the same time, I understand that he is not a Calvinist. Hence, there must be a point at which one receives salvation. And that entails more than a sinner's prayer, I reckon?!

Is it a full putting one's life in the Lord's hands/commitment/repentance we are talking about?

To understand the starting point of our salvation we must see it from two angles – God's and ours.

From God's: 'For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He **called**, these He also **justified**; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**' (Rom.8:29-30).

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'For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?' (Rom.10:13- 15).

7. Where does Ken place himself theologically? E.g. Calvinist?

'For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?' (1 Cor.3:4)

'Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas' (1 Cor.3:21-22)

8. How can we differentiate reward in the kingdom and entering to the kingdom? Galatians 5:21. Though they are believers what does it mean they shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

What is the Kingdom? Basileia = the rule or reign of God upon earth for 1000 years under the Kingship of Jesus.

Enter = to come into. We do this as sons of God, those who are born again. Matthew 18:3. We enter by faith.

Inherit = to receive or possess. These will take part in the rule of Christ. We inherit by faithfulness. 1 Cor.9:24-27; Rev.3:11.

9. Can a believer which is saved by Christ delivered from the evil spirits, as often we see in the Christian channels like "deliverance program" we see that one believer delivered more than two times? Can a believer be obsessed and possessed by evil spirits?

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A demon would not want to live in the same home as Christ. Remember, the two-test rule:

1. Was this practised by the Apostles in the book of Acts?
2. Are we instructed to practice this anywhere in the New Testament epistles?

10. In Matthew 25 about the 10 virgins – were they all believers? The bridegroom answered to the 5 that he didn't know them. Also, what does it mean that they didn't have oil for their lamps?

Virgins are never represented in Scripture as being anything other than believers. The Church collective is the Bride; but the virgins individually are invited to be part of the Bride. 'I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ' (2 Cor.11:2).

The 5 were called 'foolish' because they didn't live in a state of fellowship or dependence upon Him. Paul also calls such behaviour 'foolish'. 'Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?' (Gal. 3:3). Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

11. In 1 John 5:6 what does it mean 'the water and blood'?

'This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth'

Always keep in mind the context. John is refuting the teaching of the Gnostics who taught that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at baptism but left Him before the Cross because, they said, His work was completed. John is saying that the same Spirit Who bore witness at Jesus' baptism also bears witness to the work of propitiation through His blood.

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