

28- How The Barrier Is Removed

Shared from the Living Water Group on Facebook and <http://www.bayourouge.net>

In our last Bible lesson, we shared the fact that once we reach the time in our life that the Living God holds us accountable for our sins, the very next sin we commit creates a barrier between us and "אלהים" (pronounced "el-o-heem" in English), **The Three Mighty Ones**. The Hebrew word "אלהים" (pronounced "el-o-heem" in English) is the **plural** of a Hebrew word that refers to the Living God. Yes, even in the beginning of "Old Testament days", the people knew the Creator of all things as a Divine Trinity. " ¹ *In the beginning "אלהים" (pronounced "el-o-heem" in English) created the heaven and the earth.*" *Genesis 1:1 (King James Version)*

If our material body would have expired while that sin barrier separated us from fellowship with the Lord, we would have ended up in a place of torments, paying for our sin debt for eternity. We refer to those people who will stand before God at the **White Throne Judgment** "lost" people. " ¹⁰ *The Devil who had led them astray was thrown into the pool of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.* ¹¹ *Next I saw **a large white throne** and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.* ¹² *I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. **The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.*** ¹³ *The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds.* ¹⁴ *Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.)* ¹⁵ *Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire."* *Revelation 20:10-15 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

We also shared the fact that all "lost" people belong in one of three groups, the good people, the religious people and the bad people and their sin debts have created a barrier between themselves and the Lord. So, today we would like to examine where a "lost" person can go in order for that sin barrier **removed** so they can be in fellowship with the Living God.

There is **only one** place they can go in order to cross that sin barrier. **They Must Go By The Way Of The Cross!** " ¹¹ *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.* ¹² **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none**

other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. " Acts 4:11-12 (King James Version)

As Jesus Christ looked down through the corridors of time, He realized that if He did not give His life to pay our sin debt, we would have to pay for our sins through eternity in the Lake of Fire. In other words, Jesus Christ took what we deserved, death, so that we could have what He deserved, eternal life. At the moment that we go to God in prayer, ask God to forgive us of our sins and ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross, pay our sin debt, **our sin debt is paid!** God says He puts our sins as far as the east is from the west. At that moment, everything has been forgiven and forgotten. " ¹¹ *As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who respect him.* ¹² **He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west.** ¹³ *The LORD has mercy on those who respect him, as a father has mercy on his children.* ¹⁴ *He knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.* ¹⁵ *Human life is like grass; we grow like a flower in the field.* ¹⁶ *After the wind blows, the flower is gone, and there is no sign of where it was.* ¹⁷ **But the LORD'S love for those who respect him continues forever and ever, and his goodness continues to their grandchildren¹⁸ and to those who keep his agreement and who remember to obey his orders.** ¹⁹ *The LORD has set his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over everything."* Psalm 103:11-19 (New Century Version)

Before salvation, we had a problem most people have never considered. There is no sin in God! He is perfect and He proved that by projecting Himself into a material body like ours (but without an old sin nature) and living on this earth among mankind for 30 plus years and never, ever committed one single sin, that is, He never, ever broke one of the laws of God. In other words, the Lord is perfect righteous. We can say that He is **+R**. But what about us? What was our condition before we were saved? " ⁶ *All of us have become like something unclean, and all our **righteous** acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.* ⁷ *No one calls on Your name, striving to take hold of You. For You have hidden Your face from us and made us melt because of our iniquity."* Isaiah 64:6-7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

" ⁹ *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we before laid to the charge both of Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin;* ¹⁰ *as it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one;*** ¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, There is none that seeketh after God;* ¹² *They have all turned aside, they are together become unprofitable; There is none that doeth good, no,*

not, so much as one: ¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; With their tongues they have used deceit: The poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways; ¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:9-18 (American Standard Version)

So, in the eyes of the Lord, **at one time**, those of us who have been born again were **-R**. We had no righteousness at all. **Now We Have Found The Problem**. God, who is **+R**, could not fellowship with us as long as we were **-R**. The people who are trying to make it to heaven by being good are **-R!** The people who are trying to make it to heaven by being religious are **-R!** The bad people who have either given up (**class (A)**) or those who have been turned over to a reprobate mind (**class (B)**) are **-R!**

In order for a lost person to have fellowship with God, they must become **+R** and there is only one place they can get **righteousness**. Jesus Christ was sinless. He was and is **+R**, **perfect righteousness**. At the moment we go to God in prayer, ask God to forgive us of our sins and ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay our sin debt, the **righteousness** of Christ is credited to our account in Heaven by a process called I-M-P-U-T-A-T-I-O-N. Imputation is an accounting term and it means to take out of debt and put to the good.

" ²⁰ For **no one is put right in God's sight by doing what the Law requires**; what the Law does, is to make us know that we have sinned. ²¹ But now God's way of **putting people right with himself** has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. ²² **God puts people right, through their faith in Jesus Christ**. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: ²³ everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. ²⁴ But by the free gift of God's grace, **all are put right with him through Christ Jesus**, who sets them free. ²⁵ God offered him, so that by his blood he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. God did this in order to demonstrate that he is **righteous**." Romans 3:20-25 (Today's English Version)

Imputed righteousness is a concept in theology, proposing that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, that is, treated as if it were ours because of our faith in Jesus Christ. **One of the places we find it described is Romans 4:20-25.** This passage is speaking about Abraham and the King James Version of the Bible uses a lot of personal pronouns. With your permission, we will insert the name of the person and thing they are referring to as we read the passage. If you use the King James Version, you might want to open your Bible and read along. " ²⁰ *Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;* ²¹ *And being fully persuaded that, what God had promised, God was able also to perform.* ²² *And therefore the righteousness of the promised Messiah was **imputed** to Abraham for righteousness.* ²³ *Now it was not written for Abraham's sake alone, that the righteousness of the promised Messiah was **imputed** to Abraham;* ²⁴ *But for us also, to whom the righteousness of the Messiah **shall** be **imputed**, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;* ²⁵ *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."*
Romans 4:20-25 (King James Version - edited by Robert Tanner, the Living Water group on Facebook)

As an example of how imputation works, let's say you owe a ten million dollar debt and it has to be paid off tomorrow morning or they will put you in jail. **FOLLOW ME NOW.** Suppose we said, "You're real nice folks and we hate to see you go to jail. Here is a cashier's check for ten million dollars". Now you could either lean back and say, "No, I would rather go to jail and pay the debt myself" or you could accept our free gift. **FOLLOW ME NOW.** Suppose you **did not** have any money in your checking account. If you deposited the check in your checking account and you used the money to pay your debt, how much money would you have left in your checking account?

THAT'S RIGHT! You would not have any money left in your account. You just broke even. But do you remember that we said that imputation means to take out of debt and put to the good? To take out of the red and put into the black? **If you just broke even, that would not be imputation.** But suppose we said, "Here is **another** cashier's check for **another** ten million dollars so that you will never go into debt again". How much have we given you?

THAT'S CORRECT. We have given you twenty million dollars. We gave you ten million dollars to pay your past debts and ten million dollars to pay for your future debts. **THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF IMPUTATION!**

The Lord had the apostle Paul use the Greek equivalent of the English word "impute" when Paul recorded Romans 4:20-25 so we could understand how salvation works. At the moment we go to God seeking salvation, there is **not only** enough of the righteousness of Christ applied to our account in Heaven to pay for our past sins but there is also enough of the righteousness of Christ applied to our account in Heaven to pay for our future sins as well.

NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! Hmmm. If all my future sins are already paid for, I can go out and sin and have a good time. But we will show you why that won't work.

Do you remember when we shared that we have **two bodies**? One of the scriptures that proves that we have two bodies is found in 2nd Corinthians 4:16. " ¹⁶ *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*" 2 Corinthians 4:16 (King James Version)

Let's look at the spiritual body first. At the moment we go to God in prayer, ask God to forgive us of our sins and ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay our sin debt, fellowship is restored between our spiritual body and the Living Three Mighty Ones.

The fellowship that is restored between our spiritual body and the Living Three Mighty Ones is

E-T-E-R-N-A-L fellowship. One of the places that is proven is 1st John 3:9 in the New King

James version of the Bible. " ⁹ *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.* 1st John 3:9 teaches us

that the part of us that is born of God will never sin. Now my material body was not born of

God. It was born of my earthly mother and father. But there is a part of me that was born of

God, my spiritual body. 1st John 3:9 teaches that once the **spiritual** body is "born again" or

restored back to fellowship with God, our **spiritual** body will never sin. This truth is repeated in

1st John 5:18 in the King James Translation of the Bible where we are given even more details.

"¹⁸ *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*". **That's right!** 1st John 5:18 not only tells us

that the part of us that is born of God will never sin, it also tells us **that the Wicked One, Satan, cannot tempt or touch the spiritual body once it has been "born again"!!!**

Why can't **the Wicked One, Satan, tempt or touch the spiritual body once it has been "born again"?** One of the purposes of a seal is to keep someone from tampering with the

contents that are sealed? " ¹³ *When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation,*

and when you believed in Him, **you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.**" Ephesians 1:13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰ And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby **ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**" Ephesians 4:29-30 (King James Version)

NOW IF SATAN CANNOT TOUCH OR TEMPT THE SPIRITUAL BODY ONCE IT HAS BEEN "BORN AGAIN" AND THE SPIRITUAL BODY CAN NEVER SIN, THE SPIRITUAL BODY CANNOT LOSE ITS SALVATION, CAN IT????

Now We Come To The Trouble Area-**The Material Body.** At the moment you and I go to God in prayer, ask God to forgive us of our sins and we ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay our sin debt, every sin our **material body** has ever committed has been forgiven and forgotten. At that moment in time, the material body is in fellowship with God, but it is a different type of fellowship than the fellowship the spiritual body enjoys **because our material body still has its old sin nature.** It is **T-E-M-P-O-R-A-L** or earthly fellowship. We might even say **temporary** fellowship. It is true that every **past** sin the material body has ever committed has been forgiven and forgotten, **not** every future sin. Our material body will only be forgiven of sins it commits in the future if we repent and confess those future sins. Then God says He will also put our future sins as far as the East is from the West. That's why Paul cried out, ²⁴ *Unhappy man that I am! who will rescue me from this death-burdened body?"* Romans 7:24 (Weymouth New Testament).

Perhaps the material body is in fellowship with God for five minutes, ten minutes or maybe even fifteen minutes. And then our material body commits another sin. Again, our material body has an old sin nature that was never changed at the moment of salvation. In fact, if your material body liked to eat banana pudding before you are saved, it will still enjoy eating banana pudding after you are saved! Our material bodies have never wanted to do the will of God in the past, they do not want to do the will of God now and they never will want to do the will of God in the future. That is why our material body is not going to get out of this world alive. Sometime in the future God will give our "born again", **spiritual** body, a sinless, heavenly glorified body to live in for eternity. Therefore, when our material body commits a sin, it is out of temporal or earthly fellowship with God.

One of the scriptures that proves that when our material body commits a sin, it is out of temporal or earthly fellowship with God is found in the New King James translation in 1st John 1:5-6. " ⁵ *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.* ⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.* ". Darkness is descriptive of sin. When 1st John 1:5-6 says that there is no darkness in God, it means that there is no sin in God. Verse 6 tells us that if we claim to be in fellowship with God but our material body is walking in sin, we are lying. Our material body is out of fellowship with God. We know the writer is speaking of the material body being out of fellowship because in 1st John 3:9, he tells us that the part of us that is born of God will never sin. But in 1st John 1:5-6, he tells us that something is sinning. It has to be the material body and when it sins it is out of fellowship with God.

Now what happens? When we went to God in prayer, asked God to forgive us of our sins and asked that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay our sin debt, God adopted us as one of His children. Up until that time, we were one of God's creations but we **were not** one of His children, that is, we are not a member of the Family of God. Now, **after salvation**, God will deal with us as a loving father would deal with one of his children who is doing something they should not be doing. One of the places this is described is Hebrews 12:5-8. " ⁵ *You have also forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as sons: "My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reprov'd by him; ⁶ for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges."* ⁷ *Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline?* ⁸ **If you are without discipline, in which all have shared, you are not sons but bastards.** ⁹ *Besides this, we have had our earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not (then) submit all the more to the Father of spirits and live?* ¹⁰ *They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share His holiness.* ¹¹ *At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.* ¹² *So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.* ¹³ *Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be dislocated but healed." (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

This Scripture Explains Why A "Saved" Person Cannot Sin And Get Away With It. God disciplines His children when they sin. Notice verse 8. The inspired

writer tells us that if we can sin and we do not receive chastisement, we are not really a child of God. We are an illegitimate person who just claims to be a child of God.

Let us ask you a question. Suppose you had a child who was playing baseball in a vacant lot next to the home of Mr. Jones. Suppose your child hit the baseball so hard that it flew past center field and broke one of Mr. Jones' window. Suppose your child told you that after they had broken the window, they had gone over and helped Mr. Jones clean up the broken glass and your child offered to pay to replace the broken window. Would you discipline your child? I would not discipline my child either because the child had repented and was trying to make restitution.

But suppose your child ran home after they broke the window and soon you heard a knock on your door. Mr. Jones came over to tell you what your child had done but your child, when confronted, denied breaking the window. If you were certain that your child did, indeed, break the window, would you discipline your child?

Therefore, when our material body sins, we can avoid the discipline if we will repent, confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. But, on the other hand, if we refuse to admit that we have sinned, we can expect discipline.

But let's say that we are being whipped and we want the whippings to stop. **How can we get the whippings to stop?** Earlier, when we read 1st John 1:5-6 in the New King James translation, we found, ""⁵ *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.* ⁶ *If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*"

So, we found out in 1st John 1:5-6 what causes us to lose fellowship with the Lord! WE WALK IN SIN! Now, two verses later, the Lord tell us how His children can have that fellowship restored. "⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*" 1 John 1:8-10 (King James Version)

We understand the discipline of our earthly fathers. All "saved" people should understand the discipline of our Heavenly Father also. The only reason for the "woodshed experience" is to bring us to the place where we will repent and confess our sins. Therefore, when we commit a known sin, if we will repent and confess that sin and ask for forgiveness, our Heavenly Father will not have to bring us to the "woodshed".

Did you notice the circle our material body goes through as long as it remains alive on this earth? If we commit a sin, our material body will lose its fellowship with the Lord until that sin (or those sins) are repented of and confessed to the Living God. If the material body refuses to admit the sin (or sins) and to seek forgiveness, it is brought to the "woodshed". When the material body reaches the place where it acknowledges it's sins and confesses them to the Lord, it is restored to T-E-M-P-O-R-A-L fellowship until the material body commits another known sin at which time it is out of fellowship with the Lord again. As we shared moments ago, this is a circle the material body goes round and round until the material body goes back to the dust and the spiritual body is freed to go to Paradise to be with Christ for eternity.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

THEN WE HAVE A QUESTION. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF? IF YOU SEE YOURSELF BELOW THE SIN BARRIER, ETERNALLY SEPARATED FROM THE LIVING GOD,

1- "DO YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN?"

2- "DO YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BADLY ENOUGH TO ASK JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOU?"

3- "DO YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BADLY ENOUGH TO ASK JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOU, RIGHT NOW?"

4- "WOULD YOU SLIP TO THE LORD IN PRAYER, RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE **RIGHT NOW** AND ASK JESUS CHRIST TO PAY YOUR SIN DEBT?"

If you just made that decision to ask Jesus Christ to pay your sin debt, we may not ever meet on this earth but we assure you that we will rejoice together on that New Earth for eternity because of the decision you just made.

You are welcome to correspond with us.

Robert Tanner. The Living Water group on Face Book