

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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“...but I have been forgiven”

By :

There is an immutable law of God regarding the consequences of sin that we should never forget. *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;...”* (Galatians 6:7). Paul reminds us that there is a harvest that we will reap in the flesh when we sin.

One of the blessings in Christ is forgiveness from our sins. (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus’ blood has the power to wash away our sins. It is wonderful to know that we no longer have to bear the guilt of our sin when forgiven. We are justified by the authority of the Lord, and have our consciences cleansed by his blood when we meet the Lord’s conditions for forgiveness (I Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 9:14, I Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16).

Enjoying a clean slate from the guilt of sin, we must not think that forgiveness will override God’s law of reaping what we sow. For example, one can be forgiven for the sin of drunkenness. But this does not mean that the person who has sowed to his

flesh will avoid the consequences of years of sin and not have to suffer from a liver disease. The person might say, “Lord why do I have to suffer from this liver disease? I know I sinned in years of practicing drunkenness, but I have been forgiven. Forgiveness from God does not stop the harvest from coming: we “of the flesh reap corruption.”

One, after years of sowing to the flesh the sin of premarital sex, can be forgiven of fornication. But this does not mean that the person should now not suffer from the AIDS virus. Does God take away all consequences of sin when he forgives? No, he takes away the guilt of sin, but God’s other law of reaping in the flesh, what one sows to the flesh is not automatically done away with in forgiveness.

One may receive forgiveness from the Lord and one’s spouse for the sin of adultery. But one should not cry with dismay “but I have been forgiven” when the spouse does not trust you anymore when you leave their company. Sin has its harvest day of corruption that is often painfully felt after forgiveness has taken place before God and man. How

true is God’s statement: *“...but the way of the transgressor is hard”* (Proverbs 13:15).

After David confessed his sin of adultery with Bathsheba, he was forgiven by God. Nathan, the prophet of God said to David, *“Jehovah also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die”* (2 Samuel 12:13).

But notice the painful harvest that he suffered in the flesh due to his one sin. *“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die”* (2 Samuel 12:14). An innocent baby was not allowed to live even though David’s sin had been forgiven. Other consequences followed from this one sin. The sword was not to leave the house of David, and one from his own house would despise him by sleeping with his concubines (2 Samuel 12:9-12, cf. 16:21-22).

Let this fact of reaping sins’ harvest, even after being forgiven, strengthen us in our resolve to not sin. Forgiveness does not stop the painful harvest of corruption in the flesh.