

“His Word is Truth”

In Exodus 34:6-7a we read these words of God: **“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in**

love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave

the guilty unpunished.”

How are we to understand these words of God?

First of all, we must understand that God was speaking these words to Moses not long after God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt and was now leading them through the desert wilderness to the land he promised to give to the descendants of Abraham. In Genesis chapter 15 we see that God informed Abraham in advance that his descendants would be slaves for 400 years after which God would rescue them and bring them to the promised land where they would wait for the birth of the Savior of sinners who would be a descendant of Abraham. (See Genesis 12:1-3 & Galatians 3:6-14)

Simply put, the reason God can forgive wickedness, rebellion and sin is that He does NOT leave the guilty unpunished. Scripture teaches that God punished His own Son in the place of us wicked people so that we might be saved through repentance and faith in Him. In Isaiah 53:5-6 we read: **“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds**

we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Also see Matthew 20:28, John 1:29 & 1st Peter 2:22-25)

However, God warns us that if we harden our hearts, refuse to repent, are proud of the sin God condemns and throw a parade for it (see Romans 1:32), we thereby reject God’s mercy and remain under His just wrath. In Hebrews 10:26-27 we read: **“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.”**

The good news is that when we humble ourselves before God and agree with His Word that our various sins of desire, thought, word and deed are evil we can receive full forgiveness through faith in His Son who died for us and who will also help us to say “No” to the desires of our sinful nature and “Yes” to God’s loving will for our lives. (See 1st John 1:7 - 2:2) In Titus 2:11-14 we read: **“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”**



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