

## REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN SHOULD BE PREACHED

The Resurrected Savior won the battle against Satan once and for all, when He arose from the grave victoriously, bringing salvation to the world. It was a beautiful morning that day! Choirs of angels sang the song of victory, celebrating the salvation of mankind! They sang the song of victory, celebrating our Savior's resurrection from the dead! The earth understood when YAHSHUA died, as it trembled with quaking and rumbling with fire in the form of lightning, with tears expressed by rain. Nature went through a time of chaos, seemly forever on those three days that our Savior was buried. At that time, He descended into hell and made a proclamation to the souls of those who long before in the days of Noah had been disobedient, when God's patience waited during the building of the ark in which a few [people], actually eight in number, were saved through water. (I Peter 3:18-19). The power of sin over mankind was defeated that day and Satan suffered the blow of condemnation; he was bruised and his head treaded underfoot (Gen. 3:15a). And the song of Romans 8:1 is sung: Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation for those who are in Christ YAHSHUA... Forgiveness was released that day to those who will repent of their sins in order to receive forgiveness.

After it all was over, two of His disciples went home with heavy hearts, as they hopelessly discussed the happenings of the day. It was as if they had never heard about YAHSHUA'S soon coming death and resurrection. They were startled, not understanding why, because they were politically motivated, hoping that YAHSHUA was the One to free them from Rome's control. Joining them, after a while, YAHSHUA asked the question, "What is this discussion that you are exchanging between yourselves as you walk along? They stood still, looking sad and downcast. Then of them named Cleopas, answered Him, Do You alone dwell as a stranger in Jerusalem and not know the things that have occurred there in these days? (they asked). And He said to them, What things? And they said to Him, about YAHSHUA of Nazareth, Who was a Prophet mighty in work and word before God and all the people; and now our chief priests and rulers gave Him up to be sentenced to death and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He Who would redeem and set Israel free." (Luke 24:13-21). That was a hopeless day for those disciples, for their eyes were blinded to the reality right before their eyes. Instead of joy, their hearts were sad with grief. Seeing the extent of their unbelief, YAHSHUA rebuked them for their lack of faith to believe all the prophecies written about Him through Moses, the Psalms and the Prophets. As they arrived home, they invited Him to stay with them, for it was the end of the day. That was the opportune time for those disciples to reconcile with the fact that YAHSHUA had come not to free them from Rome, but to save them from eternal condemnation. At the breaking of bread, when YAHSHUA prayed, praised and thanked God, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. That day, seemly gloomy and sad, with all hope gone, was turned into a joyous day, filled with hope and celebration. He was alive! Not being able to contain their excitement about it, they returned to Jerusalem, seven miles from where they were, to find the eleven apostles gathered together. In their excitement, they told them all that had happened on the road home. While they were still talking, YAHSHUA stood among them saying, Peace, be to you! Oh, what a joy for all the apostles present at that place! YAHSHUA'S peace, filled their hearts with hope! Still not sure of

what they were seeing, YAHSHUA said to them, Have you anything to eat? And there in their presence, He ate a piece of broiled fish. Their eyes were opened at the words of YAHSHUA, reminding them of what had been written about Him in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets and the Psalms, just as He told the two disciples. That was imperative for them to believe in Him, so that they could be what YAHSHUA had called them to be: His witnesses of what they had seen and His Messengers of the Good News of the Gospel, which is the message of repentance for forgiveness in the name of YAHSHUA to the nations, starting from Jerusalem was (Luke 24). The true message of the Gospel is that of repentance for forgiveness. That's the good news the Gospel of our Lord YAHSHUA represents.

The good news has brought freedom from the chains of the control of sins to the lives of many; it has brought forgiveness, the key that opened the doors of heaven for whosoever will. No longer under condemnation, the redeemed of the Lord is hidden under God's love, where no one can penetrate to separate them from His love. Before He ascended to heaven, He gave them the message of the Gospel to spread to the nations, beginning in Jerusalem. He simply said, **Repentance with forgiveness for sins in the name of YAHSHUA is to be preached.** That's the message of the Gospel in a nut shell. The message of YAHSHUA'S Gospel is incomplete without these two requisites. The hearing of the Gospel is the first step, believing, and repenting are the next steps in order for us to be forgiven.

It has been about two thousand years since this event took place; many however, act as these two disciples in their unbelief of the truth. Many live a hopeless life, because they have turned away from the truth. In their unbelief, they suffer the eternal condemnation even before they confront it, as YAHSHUA so said, "He who does not believe [in Him] is judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18b). Repentance is an act that brings spiritual healing to the soul. It can only come from a contrite heart, as we read in the psalm of David: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to the multitude of Your tender mercy and loving-kindness blot out my transgressions; wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and guilt and cleanse me and make me wholly pure from my sin! For I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them; my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and faultless in Your judgment" (Ps. 51:1-4).

A broken and a contrite heart such, O God, You will not despise (vs.17b). No sin is too great or hard for God not to forgive. His redemptive power is greater than any sin committed. Otherwise, why would He give His life for a ransom, if He could not forgive all sins? Forgiveness is a wing given to sinners after they repent and are forgiven of their sins. Weightlessly, they live a life of joy and hope. David once said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest, yes, I would wander far away, I would lodge in the wilderness; I would hasten to escape and to find a shelter from the stormy wind and tempest" (Ps. 55:6-8). That means, Oh that I had wings of forgiveness, I would lodge in the presence of God, where I would find a shelter from the tempest of my guilt!

Guilt always comes with torment for those who refuse to repent. It grows to remorse to the point of suicide. Don't you know that our Savior suffered all pains of our emotions? The Holy Spirit, Who convicts us of sin is ever willing to free us from any root of sin that lingers to destroy us. When the soul listens to the Spirit, things happen for our good, resulting in blessings God has in store for us. The Apostle Paul writes in the letter to the Ephesians, "May blessing be to the God and Father of our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm!" (1:3). **Repentance and forgiveness will open the door to every spiritual blessing God has promised us.** Don't be left behind and voided of them. Repent of your sins and forgiveness will enrich your earthly life until eternity embraces you with joy unspeakable.