

## HOLY HELPS

**GOD FORGIVES AND FORGETS**

***"I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."***

Jeremiah 31:34 (repeated in Hebrews 8:12)

A forgetful God? Yes! God forgives our sin, and forgets that which He has forgiven. Even though His omniscience is complete, so that He knows the past and future better than we know the present, He forgets forever every failure we confess and which He forgives. It is all because of His mercy and grace.

The following scriptures are of great comfort and assurance to the one who confesses sin:

- Isaiah records: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18);
- The angel told sinful Isaiah, "Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." (Is. 6:7);
- Daniel 9:9 is clear: "The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him."

Such grace is possible because of Jesus' atoning death on our behalf. Jesus made forgiveness possible:

- "Through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you." (Acts 13:38);
- In Christ "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." (Ephesians 1:7);
- In Him "we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:14).

God is able to do what no human can do, He can forgive *and* forget. Does this fact mean that we can sin and confess, sin and confess, sin and confess? If God forgives and forgets, are there no consequences to sin? Does such grace allow us continued sinning and confession? Why can't we confess our sins and failures, claim His forgiveness and cleansing, then sin and confess again? Are there consequences to such presumptions? Absolutely! I can drive a nail into a piece of wood and you can pull the nail out, but the hole remains. If we sin we can find forgiveness, healing and grace, but the event cannot be erased. What's done is done.

Sometimes the results of sin are obvious to others. Sometimes we think our sin is secret. But even if our failures have not yet been revealed, they keep us from being the men and women we could be. And that fact affects others. So, the next time you're tempted to sin and confess, know that God forgives and forgets, but your life and influence will be affected. God's grace which forgives our sins will also enable us to refuse to sin. The next step is yours.

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