

Red Letter Edition

Jan. 2014

What did Jesus Say?

Eleventh Month 6013

Eleventh Month 6013
 1/2/2014
 2.3% illumination
 13° above horizon

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New Moon Gathering
5 PM
 (sunset is 5:06)
Thurs; 1/2/2014
Albuquerque, NM

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So, here comes another *un*-holiday. How will we deal with this one?

As you know, I am not one to take a hard stand against persons for their preference of holidays. I assume their conviction and subsequent judgment is plenty for them to deal with – so, I take a hard stand only where I am concerned. As for them, and their practices – tell the truth, be an example, but, be kind.

I'll give you this Scripture – and let you think about this on your own – and I'll move on.

1 Corinthians 6 "...ye do wrong, and defraud... your brethren. [You know that] "the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. [Remember] ... such were some of you..."

LET'S BE KIND

Actually, the idea of making New Year resolutions although having no religious significance, if considered but for a moment, carries a wonderful message. New Year's Day *can* be considered in the light of forgiveness. I'll show you...

Here's a day upon which some in the world may resolve to do better than the previous year. Give up a habit or make a new one. Resolve to a more refined culture or lifestyle.

There is something about starting over that gives great hope to the weary Life-Traveler (especially the Life-Traveler who has failed several times!) Never, in my life, have I seen someone make a home run or half-court swish who immediately afterward hollered out "DO OVER!!!" Never does any golfer yell, "Mulligan!" when they sink a 22-foot putt!

"Do-overs" and "mulligans" are for the mistakes made in sports; but, *is there an exception, an excuse to fail, a justification to violating the strict rules of life?* Is there a time when we may ever claim of our sin, "The sun was in my eyes!" or "That was just a warm-up shot!"?

There is something about starting over that gives great hope to the weary Life-Traveler (especially the Life-Traveler who has failed several times!)... but, is there an exception, an excuse to fail, a justification to violating the strict rules of life?

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JESUS IS A PROFESSIONAL—DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!

First, let's get this straight, when it comes to the sins and short-comings in life mankind truly **deserves no mercy**. This may sound cold and cruel and perhaps somewhat insensitive, but it is nonetheless true. Consider for a moment that we don't know what these remedies really are—neither those we use ourselves or those we prescribe to others. Are we merciful and kind? Are we forgiving and just? Many of us do not have enough information yet to answer correctly.

By definition, mercy is **KINDNESS EXTENDED** (presumably to someone who does not deserve it). If kindness is **DUE**, then the kindness is **JUST**. Now read this slowly...

If it is **JUST** it is **NOT MERCY**—it is **JUSTICE**.

Many times people sin against us ignorantly and we bear the impact. Not of the sin they committed, but of our own sin; that is, our lack of **MERCY** when it is due. Kindness due is **JUST** because their sin was unintentional. Feel free to read this explanation of **MERCY** again.

It is a fact that many of the problems in life are likely an outcrop of our own making from years of doing whatever we want to do while justifying our actions and, at the first blush of condemnation, averting our eyes when made plain to us.

Mercy does not apply to rebellion. It is hard at this point to even speak of mercy applied to such rebellion. **Justice** takes over here – and it is nothing short of painful. That pain makes us call for mercy. If we don't receive it – we manufacture it. It costs us nothing so it may be used liberally.

The application of this synthetic mercy exacerbates the problem. Mercy, spread like cheap paint, *insults* justice. Forgiveness from God is easily manufactured by recognizing blessing after the sin. Forgiveness (usually perceived as such when we “get away with our sin”) is slathered upon our escape from penalty as a balm of relief accorded by a “merciful” God. This convolution in reasoning makes the penalty for others who do not participate in this fantasy, doubly hard. This false mercy, forgiveness, sympathy, is obviously the nucleus in the expression, “*God understands me...*”

So, in order to simulate justice, we must use faux forgiveness with mock mercy and apply it to sins of which we have no intention to repent. Are we really this lost? Yep... ‘fraid so!

This misuse and abuse, misapplication and egocentric appliance of “mercy” and “forgiveness” is the main reason we (mankind in general) *cannot* forgive. We know nearly nothing about mercy. We have never forgiven anyone, nor have many of us ever been forgiven. Scary... huh? We must have the understanding to use these distinctive qualities responsibly so that they can accomplish their end of bettering those who practice them and those upon whom they are bestowed. Fearful to realize is the undeniable fact that these wonderful characteristics, used indiscriminately, and without understanding, can cause severe damage.

Proper application may only be learned by the supernaturally imparted Wisdom spoken of in the Bible. We must learn from our Father's example and allow understanding to come.

“The sun was in my eyes!” So, how will the Almighty give us our “mulligan” without sacrificing His sovereignty and divine repute of justice balanced with mercy?

SPRINGTIME!

Although our God changed New Year to occur in springtime (remember, as far as the world is concerned, we “April Fools” reject the Catholic decree that changed the calendar), we can have the *sentiment* of New Year *everyday*.

Someone yells out “Happy New Year!” My answer is, “It's always New Year to me!”

“Oh yeah? How so?”

“I live today by resolutions I made last night...and, I may even make more **tonight** to live by **tomorrow**.”

So, how can you get an arrangement like mine? I didn't make it up, I read it. How would you like to have such a deal? Wait, don't answer yet! I can easily find the answer to this question by examining how you forgive and extend mercy to others. In fact, what you say, how you answer has little bearing on the truth. Do you want to know how to obtain forgiveness from God? Forgive others. That simple? Yes. Just that simple.

Do you want to know how to obtain forgiveness from God?

FORGIVE OTHERS!

Imagine that guy who has done you so wrong hollering out “*Do Over!*” Are you going to allow it? You should! Want a peek at your own judgment day? It will go just like the last opportunity you forgave someone who asked you to forgive them.

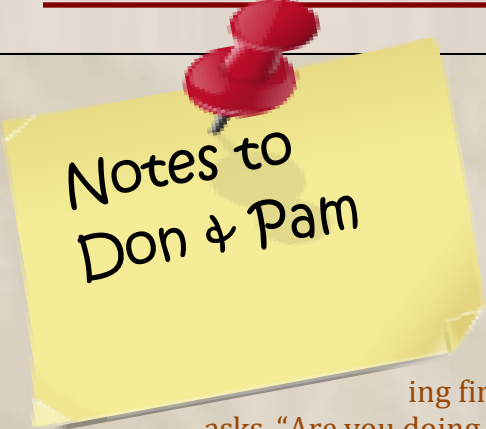
Are we to believe the red words, or not?

Mark 11:25-26, “*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*”

Matthew 18:21-35, “Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, *I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.*

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Notes to
Don & Pam

Thanks for the Thanksgiving CD! (NV)

It appears Don is doing very well these days and we are always to glad to see both of you on Red Letter Edition Live! Though we are far apart in miles, we hold you close in our hearts and are continually thankful for you. I apologize for my poor communication skills, as I should be letting you know that far more often! As we enter another "holiday season" we are showing love to our extended family while still stand-

ing firm in our rejection of the Christ-mass... Every year, someone inevitably asks, "Are you doing christmas this year?" as if it's a fad that will eventually pass! Oh well, we press on and remain ready to give an answer - they just don't ask the real questions! Much love, (NE)

Thanking you all for what you are doing – great job! (TX)

It sure is hard to keep out the sounds of this time of year! Even going out to eat, you hear the music...glad when it's over! Love to you both, (TX)

[FROM THINK RED INK MINISTRIES FACEBOOK PAGE REGARDING "ASKED & ANSWERED" VIDEO] Wow! How can it get any plainer?

I praise God from whom all blessings flow! Your ministry is certainly a blessing to me and I really do appreciate the wonderful materials you have sent to me. Your teaching are so wonderful. May God continue to bless your works and your ministry. I have learned a lot from your teachings and ministry during the few months that I have been listening to you. Thanks much, peace and love, (NEW - PA)

Keep up the good work! (GA)

With this shipment, I will have ordered all of the materials that you have offered. I am grateful that you have freely given of these materials; otherwise, I would not have been able to order them. I thank you so very much. (AL)

My daughter posted a story on Facebook about a church in Colorado <https://www.facebook.com/CWCCS> Calvary Chapel in the Springs. They relegated a special needs child and his mother to the hallway because he was, I guess in their mind, disruptive during the worship part of the service. [DAUGHTER] responded to her fullest extent after one of her friend's responses. [DAUGHTER] personally knows these people who were ejected. I just thought her response was the highlight of the whole conversation that went on last night. Her response was to statements about "there are two sides of the story," "and the Bride of Christ has its faults but Jesus loves the church".

[DAUGHTER'S] RESPONSE (Somewhat edited by TRI):

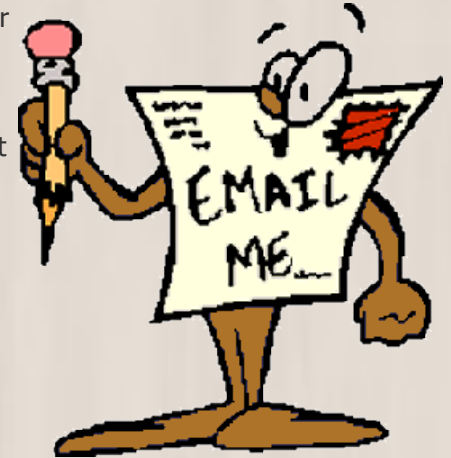
Ok...I can't hold back...so here it goes...WHY does the church need to be perfectly quiet? WHY is a church service even set up the way it is? Where are the scripture references that say things have to be a certain way? Why does everyone always need it to be just the right atmosphere, why do we sing the fast songs first and then the slow worship songs? Where are we getting all these "rules"....I don't see any of it in my Bible. Jesus taught in fields with dirty animals around...he taught to families, and I am sure there was more than one occasion that a kid was noisy or rowdy. Why are we all so spoiled? Why do we view church the way we do? Why is this young man's experience and form of worship any less important than everyone else in that building? Everyone goes to church expecting a certain kind of experience...we all do it. And the minute anything is different than what we are expecting, we get upset. I have people defend the imperfect bride to me all the time....ALL THE TIME. That's fine...but I am defending our imperfect children... (well, imperfect in the worlds eyes). This church handled this poorly. The "head" pastor will not respond to the families concerns. If there is another side, they are certainly not telling it. They have been given more than one chance to do so. The pastor who did speak to the mother actually told her she needed to pray about being happy worshipping in the hallway. I can worship in my own hallway...why even go

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to church if you have to sit alone in the hallway? I cannot even tell you how many times we have excused ourselves from church services, restaurants, get-togethers, movies, pretty much every public place you can think of. We haven't been to a church in years, because we know that people don't want to hear [DAUGHTER'S CHILD] make noises. It is as simple as that. It makes people uncomfortable, and it takes away from all the "warm fuzzies" everyone wants to feel at church. It is reality...it is a slap right in the face that maybe God doesn't really heal every time we ask...maybe innocent children have to suffer through thousands of seizures for no good reason, maybe the hours and hours of a mother's tear and prayers go unanswered...it is reality and most people just don't want to see it, and obviously don't want to hear it. I am sorry if my handicap child disrupted your trendy worship song...I am sorry if my reality is too much for you to handle. Maybe the "bride" needs to grow up and be willing to get messy with people. Jesus was willing, why are we not? It is time for the church to get real. When this family was asked to sit in the hall, it was made clear that they and more specifically, their son, were less important than every other person there. It was wrong. And (certain person) ...I see your point...and I don't agree. BUT...I love you and your family very much! (TX)

Don@ThinkRedInk.com
or
Pam@ThinkRedInk.com



My neighbor next door is a preacher,
At least that's what he claims.
No title, like Reverend or Vicar,
No letters are after his name.

No fear has he of labor or work,
His shirt is usually wet,
He fixes his stuff, builds what he needs,
Like no parson I've ever met.

A "Man of the cloth, I doubt it.
A Priest, a Prophet, a Monk?
He's like no holy man I ever seen,
I've been close to this guy- and he stunk!

I can't find him on any roster,
That has all the Pastors listed.
I heard him preach once under a tent,
A Gospel, contorted and twisted.

He's like no preacher I've ever heard,

His words make sense and are clear.
He makes you uneasy and pulls out your
props,
He makes you doubt and fear.

"We're saved for sure!" A Reverend re-
marks,
"Fear's not of God say" they,
I go to Church, I think to myself...
Then why am I so afraid?

The others I've heard I did not understand,
Of meaning and clearness bereft.
I may have had no idea what they said
But certainly felt good when I left.

He compels no gifts be given,
He seems to give more than he takes.
He says that preachers who do so,
Are little more than fakes.

No Father, Rector or Rabbi
Claims to his friend,
No one says what he says is right,
Neither middle, beginning or end.

His Bible, it looks just like mine,
When he quotes it - how strange it sounds.
It's like a mad man talking,
Theology way out of bounds!

Yet, he's not mad but real,
When he reads - I feel like I'm there.
How can the preachers hate this guy?
I don't think he cares!

He calls what he preaches the Gospel,
Calls a clean life "The Way".
He's never asked if I'm "Born Again",
He says he cares not what I say.

"It's as a man does that matters -
What's said is little worth".
"It's the change in his heart, his mind, his
life,
That betrays his kind of birth."

The Reverend said, "Watch out for him",
"Be careful - He'll lead you off track!"
"You doing just fine - just like you are,
We've missed you in church - come
back."

Weird or not I'll watch him.
He's my friend - and has proven so...
Lead me astray, maybe he will,
But maybe I want to go.

Red Letter Edition



On Forgiveness

TRI RECOMMENDED

How To Forgive — and WHY

Request your audio CD today:
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TRI Bookshelf

On Forgiveness

Did Jesus pay your “Sin Debt”? Have you any assurance about your own forgiveness without practicing it in your daily life? Is it necessary to forget in order to really forgive others? Have our sins been erased from the Father’s memory?

Many questions....only one answer! This audio CD, “*On Forgiveness*”, is a 45-minute life-changing sojourn guiding you out of the bondage of un-forgiveness to the pleasant place of perfect peace in the knowledge that your sins are forgiven.

Learn *WHAT* forgiveness is and *WHY* forgiveness is critical to a right relationship with the Judge of all the Earth.

Learn *HOW* to live with those who “...*revile you and speak all manner of evil against you falsely....*” and *WHO* gives the joy of overcoming when this humanly impossible task is accomplished.

Learn *WHERE* forgiveness will lead you. To be like Christ and exemplify His character in your life, forgiveness is not an option but a holy requisite. Fathom the dying words of Christ, “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.*”

Don’t miss it!! Don’t grapple with the bitter pill of un -forgiveness a moment longer!

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By
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“Something Old ~ HOMESCHOOLING”



SPECIAL ISSUE! Coming 4/2014

Thinking Pink e-zine (A Softer Shade of Red) wants your submissions! Send your **testimonies** and insights on **parenting** and grand-parenting, **homeschooling**, healthy **living**, recipes and **CENTS-able** Ideas.

*Have you Read...*any good **books** to recommend?

Also want **recipes** and money-saving **ideas**. Send to

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The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

Do your friends feel that you are prone to judge them harshly? It may be your perception of your own judgment day that makes you the way you are. Like the prodigal son's father, portrayed by He who knows Him best, YHVH waits for us to turn from our way, SO that He CAN forgive us - a beautiful portrait of the attitude of every wronged Christian toward their malefactor. See for yourself your Father's attitude:

*"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: **turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways;** for why will ye die, ...as for the wickedness of the wicked, **he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness...**Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: **he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.**" (Ezekiel 18)*

Let's see, don't these verses mean that the day after I repent ...and resolve to do better... it will officially be NEW YEAR? Well, yeah... sort of! Anyway, it's good enough for me.



MODERN CHRIST~INSANITY

1. To forgive means to forget.
2. We are under no obligation to forgive if we are not asked.
3. Asking for forgiveness of sins we don't even know about.
4. Repentance means to "feel sorry" for our sin.
5. Once we are "saved" it does not matter how we treat our fellow man.
6. We are forgiven of sin – past, present, and future.
7. Asking daily for forgiveness of sins.
8. Adam's sin is why we are going to hell.
9. Assurance of forgiveness comes from an "Infallible Bible's" claims.
10. God will not (some say cannot) remember our sin because it is forgiven. (Neither of the above Scriptures teaches that we are in no danger of having our sin re-instituted against us).

Why isn't this preaching more popular? Why haven't we heard these Bible verses over and over? The simple answer is that they counter and complicate (and in some cases even destroy) almost every denominational position on salvation, forgiveness, mercy and justice.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but even this sampling shows how men have complicated sin, forgiveness, mercy, redemption, salvation and justification. It is no wonder we struggle with forgiveness and showing mercy when the simple concept has been so obscured. No doubt, someone, somewhere in your Christian walk decided to let you struggle with sin and forgiveness rather than strain their denominational bulwark of beliefs.

So, what is the requirement for us? Can it be said better than Micah 6:8, "*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*"

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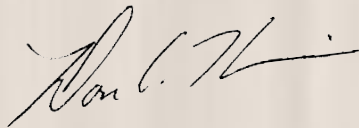
I suggest you offer the sentiments in these red words as a proper *New Year* to your friends:

John 13:35, “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*”

Oh, and have yourself a proper *New Year*, too. Instead of jumping through denominational hoops and learning a bunch of illogical doctrines; rather than just hoping that God has forgiven you, resolve to do away with sin in your life and *make changes*. If *you have exercised true forgiveness toward your fellowman* – you can have the special deal I mentioned! Just yell, “*DO OVER!*”

Happy New Year!

(And that wish has nothing to with January 1)



The Eraser 



“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, ...as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness...Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.”

(Ezekiel 18)