

Christians Are not Perfect Just Forgiven!

(Psalms 32:1-5)

by Ted Gatza

Introduction:

I. Bumper Sticker Religion Never appealed to me.

A. I have felt that it reduces the glory of God's gospel to an area by a noisy muffler.

II. Various bumper stickers that I have seen:

A. "God is my Co-Pilot"

i. If he is, then who is the Pilot of your life?

B. "In case of the Rapture, this car will not have a driver"

i. There will not be a rapture, but I will keep my eye on his driving anyway.

C. "Christians are not perfect, just forgiven"

i. My first impression - Unbelievers must take note of the human side of Christians.

III. Many unbelievers think that Christians consider themselves perfect people.

A. They look at the lives we live - (our example)

B. They judge us by our actions

C. They draw conclusions to what they see - Matt. 5:16

i. Strong sincere Christians almost always draw good reports.

ii. Weaker Christians seem to be the ones to draw the criticism.

a. (Example) A Christian is seen at a secular activity on Wednesday night instead of worshiping God.

D. Their conclusion is "If Christians are not perfect, why should I be one"?

Discussion:

What unbelievers think about use: "Christians are not Perfect"

I. Hypocrites in the Church. (Hypocrite - An actor under an assumed character)

A. The character of hypocrites is to be seen of men. - Matt. 6:2,5,16.

i. Seek their own glorification.

B. Care not for God - Matt 15:8

i. Heart is far from God.

C. Seek to control other peoples lives, but not their own. - Lk. 13:10-17

i. Jesus healed on the Sabbath day (vs. 14)

ii. The Rulers of the synagogue objected (vs. 14)

a. Performed work - Forbidden by the Law.

b. Jesus replied that they performed work by watering their oxen. - Lk. 14:5.

c. Is not a daughter of Abraham of more worth than an oxen?

- D. Hypocrites are different than what people think.
 - i. True hypocrites serve their own selfish wants.
 - ii. Christians who are sometimes labeled as hypocrites are mostly weak in the faith.

II. Hypocrites who followed Jesus.

- A. Judas - Matt. 26:47-51.
 - i. Called Jesus master, kissed him, and gave him to the multitude that came for him.
- B. Peter - swore he would never forsake Jesus - Matt 26:31-35.
 - i. Peter denied Jesus - Matt. 26:69-75.
 - ii. Not only Peter but the other apostles also forsook Jesus.
- C. The difference between Peter and Judas.
 - i. Peter's faith in Jesus was genuine - Judas was not.
 - a. Both men were sorrowful. Peter turned to God. Judas turned to suicide.
 - ii. Peter realized that "Christians are not perfect ... but could be forgiven. Judas did not.
- D. Peter was reprimanded by Paul for a Hypocritical attitude. - Gal. 2:11-12.
- E. Paul preached love toward each other - Eph. 5:1
 - i. Paul and Barnabas had sharp words of contention with each other. - Acts. 15:36-39.
 - ii. They did reconcile. - 1 Cor. 9:6; Col.4:10-11; 2Tim. 4:11

III. Hypocrites today

- A. A TV Preacher I recently saw.
 - i. "Send me your money to finance my TV show and I will pray to God for you to be debt free".
 - ii. Why did he not pray for his own debts and let the people keep their money?

IV. God's Forgiveness

- A. Forgiveness belongs to God - Dan. 9:9
- B. God made provisions for Forgiveness throughout the Bible
 - i. When Israel erred from God - Lev. 4:13-20
 - ii. David's recognition of his own shortcomings - Ps. 32:1-5
- C. God will forgive us of our sins - 1John 1:5019
- D. Simon the sorcerer sinned and was forgiven - Acts. 8:14-22
 - i. Sinned yet was promised forgiveness through a repentive heart and prayer.

Conclusion:

I. We do not have a "free licenses to sin" - Jas. 4:17

II. "ye therefore shall be perfect"

- A. Complete in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character.
- B. Our growth in Christ will overcome our hypocrisies.

III. If you are not a Christian, you have no forgiveness.

- A. Hell will be full of hypocrites.
- B. Salvation only obtained by obedience to God.
- C. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear the Gospel - Rom. 1:16
 - ii. Believe - John 3:16
 - iii. Repent - 2Cor. 7:10
 - iv. Confess the name of Christ - Rom 10:10
 - v. Baptism - 1Pet. 3:21
 - vi. Salvation - Mk.16:16
 - vii. Continue Therein - 1Tim. 4:16